



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-179
Thursday
15 September 1994

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Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-179

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Moscow-Almaty Financial Group To Be Set Up

MKI409121094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 5

[Unattributed financial department report: "Moscow and Alma-Ata [Almaty] Have Decided To Form a Transnational Corporation"]

[Text] As KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned, the Russian Federation Government and the Republic of Kazakhstan have reached agreement in principle on creating an interstate financial-industrial group. A corresponding formal agreement could be signed within the next few weeks.

The decision to create the group was made 9 September during talks between the two states' delegations as part of a meeting of CIS heads of government. Work on the draft is overseen by Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets and Kazakhstan head of government Viktor Tereshchenko.

The main objective in creating the group is to develop production and financial links between the two countries. The financial-industrial group will be formed with the participation of a Russian Interpros group. In addition to large banks, it will unite a number of enterprises in the metallurgical, chemical, and oil processing industries, mostly export-oriented. In all likelihood, on the Kazakhstan side enterprises oriented toward foreign markets will also take part in the group's activity. It is no accident that the draft Russia-Kazakhstan agreement says that to stimulate the group's activity, the governments of the two countries may issue guarantees and licenses, including in the sphere of payments and settlements and credit relations in national currencies. Apparently the agreement on forming the group will be open; that is to say, other states will be able to join it.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 15 Sep

LD1509064594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0615 GMT 15 Sep 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—Today's press gives prominence to the situation in Chechnya, the Crimea, and Ukraine.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA is of the opinion that the tactical goals of the leaders of Chechnya's three principal opposition forces—Avturkhanov, Khasbulatov, and Gantemirov—coincide. Dudayev's refusal to conduct any negotiations signify one thing, namely, that the general and his immediate entourage have decided to stake their all and fight to the end.

"Dudayev, upon scrutinising all options, has chosen the worst one. He will hardly be able to frighten Moscow for long. A civil war or a war against Russia are not in the

interests of the Chechen people. Therefore, however hard Dudayev will resist, his own people will compel him to resign".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an interview with former speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov. The interview was taken in Tolstoy-Yurt village.

"I am an optimist... The Dudayev regime is rotten to the core. Everything may collapse at any moment even now... But this may also happen in a matter of weeks, but not more. The only thing I fear lest Russian troops be brought here. There were enough casualties among one people. Of course, I do not reject assistance but it should be given if the people support it. If the troops arrive, there will be loss of life on both sides," Khasbulatov said.

PRAVDA on the Crimean situation:

"The situation among the top leadership of the Crimea increasingly resembles a farce. Yuriy Meshkov has apparently come to realise that he overdid it by announcing the dissolution of the parliament and local councils and would like everything to return to how it was before. But at the same time he just cannot put up with the loss of powers which are tantamount to almost imperial ones.

"So, Meshkov set a condition: let the parliament hand back his rights which it took away last week. Only in that case, he is prepared to begin negotiations with the parliament".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) runs an interview with Dmitriy Tabachnik, chief of the Ukrainian president's staff. "I would not overdramatise the problems of the Crimea. I think that many of them have been brought on by the Crimean population's attitude to concrete politicians who have substituted political phrasemongering for a solution to economic problems and who have been in a hurry to reform whole regions," Tabachnik said.

TRUD on the problems of Ukraine:

"Literally within one month, while having power de-jure at the beginning of August, Leonid Kuchma acquired it de-facto by the time the parliament began its work, for he replaced almost all cabinet ministers (including powerful ones) and vice-premiers.

"The immediate entourage of the former 'missile sector director' includes mainly only those who helped him snatch victory in the difficult election campaign. And this is only natural: the ex-president himself acted in a similar manner at one time. And this is how all politicians coming to power act in the entire civilised world."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on Tajikistan presidential elections.

The newspaper carries an article by correspondent Vladimir Berezovskiy about preparations for presidential elections scheduled to be held in Tajikistan on November 6.

"The opposition is known to have rejected the very idea of holding the elections. Among registered candidates are parliament speaker Emomali Rakhmonov and A. Abduladzhanov, the ambassador of Tajikistan to Russia.

"In the Dushanbe corridors of power, there is also talk about other contenders such as O. Latifi, PRAVDA's former correspondent in Tajikistan, and Buriy Karimov, ex-chairman of the republican state planning committee.

"The republic's first President K. Makhkamov, prominent economic manager S. Turayev and former speaker S. Kendjayev may also lay claim to running for the presidency," Berezovskiy writes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA interviewed Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army. He said in particular that "it is, probably, necessary to leave (the Dniester region—note by ITAR-TASS). But one can leave in different ways. Russian troops hurriedly pulled out of the Baltics, leaving their compatriots, whose rights remain unprotected, at the mercy of fate. And it is not clear whether ever the accords reached will be implemented. Grounds for such doubts have already appeared."

"Those, whose grandfathers had entered Germany as victors, left it like beaten dogs. Helmut Kohl has done well, of course... He is a clever man who has managed to become both a theoretician and practitioner. In our country, only Lenin was such a person...

"To the United States, the presence of our army here, in the Dniester region, is, of course, the main headache. Two independent states discuss their own issues when a certain third party arrives and gives instructions to them how to act. On what ground? The time has long come to give up the services of all unwelcome advisers and begin to live as one thinks fit," Lebed said.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the Treaty on Social Accord:

"At the latest meeting of the conciliation commission for the implementation of the treaty, no one, in point of fact, tried to answer the general question as to whether there is more accord in society now".

IZVESTIYA on Iraq:

"For long months, Iraqi diplomats did not spare their efforts to find even the slightest contradictions in the world powers' positions on the embargo issue... As a result, Iraq can now count on a well-wishing attitude from France and China which come out in favour of encouraging the efforts of the Baghdad authorities to implement the U.N. Security Council sanctions.

"In August this year, the king of Jordan and the president of Turkey also called for the earliest lifting of the sanctions. Now comes the enchanting success of the Iraqis in Russia".

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The 37th issue of the NOVOYE VREMYA (NEW TIMES) weekly carries dispatches on the recently-ended Russian-U.S. Peacekeeper-94 exercises at the Totsk test site and the attitude of the general public to them, on the situation in Chechnya and around it, the difficult state of affairs in Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], and a political portrait of Dmitriy Yakubovskiy.

In the "third basket" section, under the rubric "From Stalin's Special File", the weekly runs an unknown letter from Goebbels to Hitler. In the letter, written in 1944, the Nazi propaganda chief suggested that the fuhrer "use all our ingenuity" and "make peace" with Stalin in order to forge a joint alliance against Western democracies.

Grachev on Situation at Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1509110394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Sep—The border guards should hand over the guarding and defense of the Tajik-Afghan border to the Armed Forces. This opinion was voiced today by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

If the political leadership of the country makes that decision, we would considerably reinforce the group of forces in the region and deploy the necessary combat equipment and weapons there to enable us to repulse the worst aggression from outside, he emphasized.

Grachev on Possible Visit to Abkhazia

LD1409205794 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev spoke by phone with the Russian servicemen in Abkhazia today. He said that if needed, he would personally go to Abkhazia to restore order and sort things out. Our correspondent Aleksandr Shashkov managed to interview the defense minister today.

[Begin recording] [Grachev] By 1000, the Georgian side was supposed to have the first group of refugees ready to return home. However, things were not done by the deadline, for reasons which are as yet unknown. On the other hand, Abkhazian President Vladislav Ardzinba has virtually blocked the beginning of the refugees' return—both by his own actions and the actions of his subordinates. Deputy Defense Minister General Georgiy Kondratyev points this out in his report. Also, about 3,000 Abkhazian militants have moved up to the area that the refugees are due to return with the objective to stop them.

[Shashkov] Is it true that Ardzinba has said he would shoot the refugees if they come back?

[Grachev] Whether he said he would shoot them I do not know, I don't know a lot of details. So far I have heard the story from Kondratyev over the phone. [end recording]

Calls Situation 'Tense'

LD1409211294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is convinced that Georgian refugees must return to their homes in Abkhazia. In an interview with INTERFAX in Voronezh Wednesday [14 September], he confirmed that the start of repatriation to the Gali district of Abkhazia was planned for September 14-15. "Once Georgia and Abkhazia have chosen Russia as mediator, we will do our best to repatriate the refugees," he said, adding that the process would begin within the next few days.

"However, the situation in the region remains tense and contradictory. By his actions, Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzinba still impedes the repatriation of Georgian refugees showing reluctance to start the process," Grachev said.

According to Grachev, his deputy Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev currently in Abkhazia told him over the telephone Wednesday that "about 3000 Abkhaz militants" moved towards the Gali district to bar Georgian refugees. Kondratyev did not rule out that the refugees might be welcomed with fire.

Grachev said he would personally fly to the conflict area should the situation become aggravated.

The Russian minister believes that the Russian military presence in the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict area will be needed for a long time to come. He pointed out that both Georgian and Abkhaz leaderships supported the deployment of Russian units in the conflict area.

"I confirm that Russia's interests on the Black Sea coast and Georgia are very important," Grachev said.

Kondratyev To Meet Abkhaz Leader on Refugee Issues

LD1509091894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—Russian deputy defence minister, Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, is scheduled to meet Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba in Sukhumi today. During the meeting the sides will discuss obstacles impeding the return of refugees to the Gali region, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists today. Grachev continues a working visit to garrisons of the Moscow military district to familiarize himself with military units stationed near the capital.

Grachev did not rule out that if the situation becomes worse, he will visit the area of the conflict himself. He pointed out that the situation in the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict remains tense. The Georgian side had pledged to get the first group of refugees ready to return to their native places, but failed to keep its promise. At the same time, Vladislav Ardzinba and his entourage are attempting to prevent the return of refugees. Referring to General Kondratyev, Grachev said that around 3,000 Abkhazian militants have been dispatched to the area of the return of refugees with the aim of preventing this process.

Grachev believes that if Georgia and Abkhazia asked Russia to mediate the settlement of the conflict, "we shall do everything possible to ensure the return of refugees," he said, adding that this problem is the most difficult today.

Grachev believes that after the return of refugees Russia's peace-keeping forces should take under special control settlements where the refugees will return to prevent a negative development of the situation. Grachev came out for Russian troops staying in this region for a continuous period of time. "Friendship cannot be restored quickly," Grachev said.

Foreign Ministry Denies Refugee Accord With Georgia

LD1409173994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1232 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep—The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has denied a report on an agreement with Georgia on the return of refugees allegedly concluded between these countries on 12 September. A representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry information and press department told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today that no agreement or treaty of any kind indicated in reports from Abkhazia exists. He said that Russia is acting strictly within the bounds of the multilateral accords and favors a gradual and peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, in which the process of the refugees' return is a part.

In the view of this Foreign Ministry representative, the purpose of the peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone, which include units and subunits of the Russian Armed Forces, is to maintain peace and protect the population from violence. They should be guided in their actions by these humane motives alone.

'Arafat Notes Moscow Role in Mideast Talks

LD1409133794 Moscow ITAR TASS World Service in Russian 1244 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep—The forthcoming Russian-American summit could make an important contribution towards strengthening the role of Russia and the U.S. as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process. This is what the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said here today on a short stopover in the Russian capital en route from Oslo to Tashkent. He met and had talks with Igor Ivanov, Russia's first deputy minister of foreign affairs at Vnukovo-2 airport.

The PLO leader expressed the hope that the subject of the Middle East, in particular the situation in the Palestinian territories, would have an appropriate place on the agenda of the Russian-American summit. "We are deeply satisfied with the role that Russia is playing in strengthening peace in the Middle East—not only in its capacity as one of the co-sponsors of the peace process, but also in its capacity as a world power," 'Arafat told the ITAR-TASS correspondent. We know, he continued,

that Middle East problems have always been at the center of attention in Moscow, and therefore count on our relations and political and economic cooperation deepening further.

The Palestinian leader also said that he had informed the Russian side about the results of talks held yesterday in the Norwegian capital with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and about the content of the Oslo Declaration signed there.

Summing up the talks, Ivanov noted in a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent that during the exchange of views he succeeded in gaining the necessary information first hand about the current state of affairs in the Palestinian-Israeli area of the Middle East settlement. Elections to the autonomy's Council are soon to be held among the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank of the river Jordan and in connection with this the Palestinian side proposed that Russia and the U.S.—as co-sponsors of the peace process—send their own election observers in addition to observers from international organizations. The elections will be an important stage in developing the whole Middle East settlement process and therefore Russian diplomats intend to pay considerable attention to this topic, Ivanov stressed in conclusion.

Says 'Arafat 'Satisfied' With Russian Role

LD1409164194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1535 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—The forthcoming Russo-American summit may make an important contribution to the strengthening of the role of Russia and the United States as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process. Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said here today. He made a short stopover in the Russian capital en route from Oslo to Tashkent.

At the Vnukovo-2 Moscow airport Yasir 'Arafat met and held talks with Igor Ivanov, first deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation.

The Palestinian leader expressed the hope that the Middle East problem, specifically the situation on the Palestine territories would be one of the key issues on the agenda of the Russo-American summit.

"We are deeply satisfied with the role Russia is playing in the strengthening of peace in the Middle East—not only as a co-sponsor of the peace process but also as a great power," 'Arafat told ITAR-TASS.

"We know that the Middle East problems have always been in the center of attention of Moscow and therefore

are hoping for the further deepening of our relations, political and economic cooperation," the PLO leader noted.

'Arafat also said he had informed the Russian side of the results of his talks in the capital of Norway with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and of the content of the Oslo Declaration signed there.

Summing up the talks, Igor Ivanov told ITAR-TASS that in the course of the exchange of views he received first-hand information about the current situation in the Palestine-Israeli line of the Middle East settlement.

In the near future elections to the council of the autonomy will be held among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank of the Jordan River. In this connection the Palestinian side expressed the wish that Russia and the United States as co-sponsors of the peace process sent their observers to control voting together with observers from international organizations, the first deputy foreign minister of Russia pointed out.

Elections to the council of the Palestinian autonomy will become an important stage in the development of the process of the Middle East settlement, and therefore Russian diplomacy intends to devote considerable attention to this event, Igor Ivanov stressed.

Grachev Sees Potential for Boost in Arms Exports

LD1409134494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1306 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev declared that in the near term Russia must regain its positions "on its traditional arms markets," the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Finland, India, and gain new ones, namely in the countries of South-Eastern Asia (Malaysia Singapore, Thailand, Philippines), Africa, and Latin America.

Expansion in the arms markets, Grachev said, is possible thanks to the demand for advanced Russian arms, namely Su-27 and MIG-29 aircraft, C-300 and TOR air defense launchers, T-80u tanks, APC-3, self-propelled MST-A-S artillery guns, anti-tank Shturm-S and Metis launchers.

Grachev reported that many countries in almost all regions of the world still have keen interest in procuring Russian arms.

Grachev admitted that deliveries of Russian arms to Europe, particularly to NATO member-countries, are unlikely because they already have advanced arms and strive for standardization of arms within the North Atlantic Alliance. At the same time he noted that several Western European states "show definite interest" in Russian TOR-2m air defense launchers, armored vehicles, Mi-35 and Mi-28 combat helicopters, small fire arms, air defense artillery, and engineering equipment.

In Grachev's words, Middle Eastern countries plan to procure air defense complexes, armored vehicles, ground-to-ground missiles, MIG-29, Su-24, Su-22 aircraft, combat and transport helicopters, automated command and control systems, electronic warfare systems, surface vessels and submarines.

North African countries are interested in spare parts for T-54, T-55m and T-62 tanks, bought from Russia earlier, for MIG-17, MIG-21, and MIG-23 aircraft, Mi-4, Mi-6, and Mi-8 helicopters and for air defense complexes. They also show interest in modernization of ships, armored vehicles, and air defense systems.

Grachev said, Asian and Asian Pacific Region countries "demonstrate interest and undertake certain moves to procure Su-27, Su-30m and MIG-29 aircraft in Russia." In addition, "they are interested in air defense systems, surface vessels, communications means, and T-80 tanks."

Latin American countries "are looking for their ways" to create their own advanced technological basis to produce modern arms, however, at the same time they show interest in procuring several types of arms and military equipment in Russia.

On the whole, Grachev said, Russian arms and military equipment are in no way inferior, and on the contrary are often superior to their Western analogues, especially with respect to fire power.

Grachev believes that substantial reduction in arms sales in 1990-1993 is primarily caused "by political motives." As Moscow yielded its positions on the world arms markets, the volume of deals made by the United States, in the Middle East in 1993, exceeded \$20 billion.

"After the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, Russia lost one fourth of its export and Americans increased their military deliveries by 38 percent," Grachev said.

"Over the last years Russia has been deliberately pushed from the world arms market and the United States and Western European countries have confidently stepped in to take its place," Grachev continued.

Commenting on problems faced by the Russian defense complex, Grachev said that inadequate financing presents the major problem.

Grachev gave as an example the fact that at this moment the state debt for delivered military production exceeds 1.4 billion rubles. Defense enterprises are working at 10-15 percent of capacity due to inadequate financing of state defense orders.

"Any further reduction in volume of military production must be ruled out because this would worsen the situation in the defense complex, two-thirds of whose production has already been cut," Grachev underlined.

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Kozyrev on Delay in Lifting FRY Sanctions*LD1409161994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539
GMT 14 Sep 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Yuriy Kozlov and Valeriy Sevryukov]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS— Russia cannot be pleased with an unjustified delay in lifting at least part of U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia, which is creating problems between Moscow and Western members of the international Contact Group, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said on Wednesday.

"We are dissatisfied with this, and this is creating problems in our relations with the Contact Group. We are having sharp debates on this issue", he told reporters at a Moscow airport before leaving for Norway to meet his colleagues from the Barents Sea countries.

The minister stressed that Russia consistently backed the "party of peace" in the Bosnian conflict, including Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. At the same time, Kozyrev called upon the world community to tighten sanctions against the "party of war", above all against Bosnian Serbs who reject the peace deal proposed by the Contact Group of the United States, Russia, Germany, Britain and France.

Speaking about the possibility of lifting the arms embargo earlier imposed on Bosnian Moslems, the Russian diplomat noted the Contact Group considered this move as a drastic measure to be resorted to if the worst came to the worst.

Further Comments on Sanctions, Baltics*LD1409181094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617
GMT 14 Sep 94*

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Alexander Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeni Terekhov and others]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said today that lifting the international embargo on arms delivery to Bosnian Moslems could become inevitable only if the situation deteriorates and the efforts of the contact group fail. Kozyrev held a press conference in the Vnukovo-2 airport before leaving for Tromso (Norway) in order to take part in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the member-states of the Council of the Barents-Euro- Arctic Region opening on September 15.

Kozyrev said he does not consider it reasonable to lift the embargo on arms delivery to Bosnian Serbs. He added that Russia would like the contact group to act in accordance with the "spirit of Geneva" encouraging those who accept the peace plan and punishing those who reject it.

Kozyrev stressed that the present delay could not be justified. Belgrade accepted the peace plan six weeks ago

but the UN Security Council did not yet adopt the resolution on suspending the sanctions against the United Republic of Yugoslavia. He said Russia is not satisfied with such a situation and that this delay creates problems in relations between Russia and the contact group.

Kozyrev said Russia is ready to make further moves in order to influence Bosnian Serbs. "Serbia itself makes such moves," he added. He said that "the party of war must feel the heavy arm of the international community and the party of peace and the Serb leaders" must be encouraged. He added that Serb President Slobodan Milosevic plays the key role in the "party of peace." Kozyrev said he believes that otherwise there will be a wreckage of peace efforts and a war.

Commenting on relations between Russia and the Baltic states, Kozyrev said that the issue of human rights and citizenship in Estonia and Latvia will be considered as the prior one by the European, world and regional policy. He said that before the issue of human rights seemed to be in the shadow of the troop withdrawal from Estonia and Latvia. Kozyrev stressed that Russian had withdrawn its troops from the Baltic states thus completing its obligations. He added that now the turn is "for our neighbors" to act.

Speaking about performance of the Council of the Barents-Euro- Arctic Region, Kozyrev said he regards it as an example of efficient cooperation. He said it is also an example of how the foreign policy of Russia conforms with the interests of Russian regions. He added that the council helps to resolve problems of the Russian north-western regions.

On his way back to Moscow the Russian foreign minister will stop in Murmansk. Interfax learned that there Kozyrev will stay for the weekend working as a State Duma deputy in his constituency.

Black Sea Fleet Commander Regrets Division in Crimea*LD1409190594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635
GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Text] Commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Eduard Baltin, commenting in an interview with Interfax on developments in Crimea, said that "in a difficult social and political situation" the Fleet "continues observing neutrality."

He said he regretted that "people once united by the same idea, are dividing power today. This destabilizes the situation in the region."

Baltin added that the peak of political tensions had been passed. He said he hoped that the president and representatives of the parliament would start talks and agree on a compromise.

Japanese Ministry Official Says No Protest Filed

LD1409145194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425
GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow September 14—No protest over Monday's incident off the South Kuril islands has been filed by Japan with the Russian Foreign Ministry, the ministry's senior official told TASS on Wednesday.

About a month ago, Japan's ambassador to Moscow Kozi Watanabe tried to voice a protest to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov over another incident in the same area, in which a Japanese fisherman was wounded. This protest, however, was rejected.

Kuril Governor Dissatisfied With Japanese Offer

LD1509092994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0805
GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo September 15 TASS—South Kuril Governor Nikolay Pokidin, who proposed to strike a commercial deal with Japan allowing it to fish in Russian waters around the disputed islands, is dissatisfied with the draft agreement prepared by Tokyo and eyes the United States as a replacement.

"The issue of establishing such a cooperation will be discussed with the U.S. consul general in Vladivostok who will arrive especially for the purpose in Yuzhno-Kurilsk" (the administrative centre of the islands), Pokidin, who arrived in the Japanese island of Hokkaido, told TASS on Thursday.

He made it clear that his administration is not going to focus only on the Japanese companies. "We have held direct talks on the issue with North Korea and through mediators we discussed the possibility of such cooperation with South Korean fishing companies," Pokidin said.

Dwelling on the Japanese draft agreement which is being discussed at unofficial bilateral consultations in Moscow, Pokidin criticised it for the absence of strict fishing quotas and of any mention regarding what types of sea products are in question.

"Such conditions cannot suit us," Pokidin said and explained that his administration is not planning to allow Japan to independently fish those products which Russian vessels are hauling.

South Kurils may grant the right to independently fish only those products which Russians are not actively fishing themselves—sharks and tunny-fish.

As far as crab and shrimps are concerned, Pokidin believes joint ventures should be created to fish them.

"Such a variant would fully meet the interests of both Russian and Japanese enterprises," he said.

The official Tokyo was alarmed by recent media reports that South Kuril authorities intend to conclude an agreement with South Korea on commercial fishing in their waters. Pokidin believes the commercial deal is the only way to keep Japanese poachers out of the region which they consider their own territory.

Tokyo has warned neighbouring Asian countries that it was inadmissible for them to conclude such a commercial deal with Russia and hinted it can resort to economic measures against those disregarding its demands.

However, if U.S. companies get interested in the commercial offer, Tokyo will face a difficult situation as it is impossible to speak with the leading world power and the major strategic ally of Japan from positions of force.

First Rescue Exercise With Japan Ends

LD1509053794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0515
GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok September 15 TASS—The first joint Russian-Japanese maritime rescue exercise was successfully completed late on Wednesday and both sides fulfilled the training programme.

Rescuers had to help people in distress whose role was played by navymen of the Pacific Fleet and civilians. They had to lift them onboard their vessels from water and render first medical aid to them. Rescuers received distress signals from a radio buoy via satellite communication which considerably promoted the success of the exercise.

Japanese observer Akihito Sato believes the exercise was "excellent" and there could be no remarks to the activities of either Japanese or Russian rescuers.

Head of the Russian side Anatoliy Vyborov said the exercise involved three Russian Navy and civilian rescue ships and one Japanese vessel. Besides, three helicopters and a plane also participated in the training.

Moscow, Pyongyang To Hold Trade Talks in Oct

SK1509042594 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000
GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] In three days of negotiations in Pyongyang, Russian and North Korea foreign trade officials reached a consensus on the basic agendas to be discussed up at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Joint Committee on Bilateral Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science, and Technology which is due to be held in Pyongyang at the end of October.

Before departing Pyongyang, (Vladimir Turfiy), deputy chief of the Department of Trade and Economic Cooperation With Asian and Pacific Countries within the

Russian Economy Institute, said in interview with an ITAR-TASS reporter that recent negotiations between the two countries were successfully held amid a constructive atmosphere. The two sides emphasized their mutual interest in promoting bilateral cooperation.

In the meeting of the Intergovernmental Joint Committee, the two countries will discuss revitalizing the economic committee in the near future as well as increasing the operation of plants built in the past.

DPRK Moves on Contacts With U.S. Viewed

*MM1509083594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
15 Sep 94 p 3*

[Report by Aleksandr Platkovskiy: "Kim Chong-il Invites Clinton To Dance the North Korean Tango"]

[Text] International inspectors have unexpectedly been authorized to inspect two top-secret installations which form part of the Yongbyon nuclear complex. Meanwhile in Pyongyang the fountains have been filled and fresh beer and delicacies brought to the special store for foreigners. That was the reception which the North Korean capital accorded the U.S. diplomats who came here for consultations on the matter of exchanging communications groups.

There is every indication that Kim Chong-il, who is still the country's untitled leader, is launching a far-reaching intrigue with his sworn enemies.

Following the death of Kim Il-song, his son is still in mourning. In accordance with Korean custom that will last 100 days. In mid-October the ritual will come to an end and Kim Chong-il is expected to take up the vacant posts of president and general secretary, having undergone the necessary formalities. At the moment the man who has inherited power for the first time in the history of a communist regime is not leaving his residence. He even failed to show at the annual celebrations to mark the anniversary of the republic's formation in early September.

According to the latest reports, Kim Chong-il is, however, engaged in intensive work to establish relations with Washington. Talks with U.S. diplomats at which the technical and organizational details of exchanging communications groups—a telephone link between Pyongyang and Washington, everyday living conditions for mission staffers, visa formalities, etc.—have been held in Pyongyang under his close supervision and guidance. The talks will continue and observers do not rule out the idea of a U.S. communications bureau being opened late this year in the DPRK, which would in the future become a full-scale embassy.

At the same time U.S. and North Korean diplomats in Berlin have held talks at which they discussed the problem of replacing North Korea's graphite heavy-water reactor with its light-water counterpart. The late "great leader" proposed to effect this change in an

attempt to dispel the suspicions over the military thrust of North Korea's nuclear programs. Unlike graphite reactors, modern light-water reactors are not designed to produce plutonium, which can be used in the production of nuclear weapons.

During the Berlin talks, according to some reports, the North Koreans categorically rejected the suggestion that the new reactor be built with South Korean aid. Pyongyang hinted that it prefers West Germany's Siemens or Russian technology. The competition for the North Korean order promises to be tough—the Japanese have already agreed to fund the deal.

The sensational announcement that International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors have visited two hitherto closed facilities within the Yongbyon nuclear complex was perceived in Washington as a highly reassuring sign. Kim Chong-il, who is still deemed an unpredictable politician, demonstrated his intention of entering into a peaceful settlement with the Americans, receiving diplomatic recognition, credit, and aid in return. From the viewpoint of the possible power struggle between rival clans in Pyongyang this step will enable the new "great leader" to strengthen his positions and open the era of his rule.

Meanwhile the body of the old leader remains unburied. It is thought that this is due to the problem of choosing a place for the burial vault. One has already been ready for a long time—the cemetery of the Revolutionaries on Taesongsan Mountain. Another possible burial place is the tomb of the semi-mythical founder of the state of Ancient Chosun, King Tangun, near Pyongyang. Intensive construction work is currently under way there.

Yarov, India's Mukherjee Sign Cooperation Protocol

LD1409224294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1445 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vladimir Suprun and Yuriy Kozmin]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep—In the course of next year all trade and economic problems which have accumulated between Russia and India will be resolved. This kind of confidence was expressed today in an exclusive interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent by Deputy Russian Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov after signing a bilateral protocol on trade and economic and scientific and technical cooperation in the "President Hotel."

This document, signed by Yuriy Yarov and Indian Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee as cochairmen of the intergovernmental commission, envisages specific measures for the further development of agreements and accords reached during the official visit to Delhi by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in January 1993 and the stay in Moscow in June-July 1994 of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. It notes in particular that the present-day level of trade and economic cooperation

between the two states does not match the potential of both countries, and it expresses the sides' intention to double bilateral barter in the near future.

The deputy prime minister said that "whatever complex issues exist in the relations between Russia and India, they can and must be resolved." Speaking in this connection about the problem of India's debts to Russia (they now amount to some \$11.6 billion), Yuriy Yarov said a governmental tendering committee has been set up in Russia under the direction of Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy prime minister and economics minister. Its tasks will include organizing rupee auctions and goods tenders for the quickest possible and most effective use by Russia of the Indian debt. The point, he explained, is that holding such auctions and tenders will make it possible to reveal the real relationship between the ruble and the rupee in conditions of inflation processes in both countries, and also to determine a circle of Russian buyers of Indian goods, including commercial structures, which will be able in a very short time to introduce a ruble cover into the state budget for the goods purchased. Moreover, it is intended to invest part of the debts into the Indian economy for the creation of joint enterprises.

In an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent given after the signing of the document, Indian Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee noted that, apart from traditional export goods to Russia—tea, coffee, light industry goods—the republic is prepared to supply the Russian Federation with high-technology goods, in particular with telecommunication systems, communications systems, and computers, which, as to quality and price, are perfectly competitive with the best similar goods in the West and could interest Russian businessmen.

The Indian minister had a meeting today with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The sides discussed specific time schedules for the purchase by Russia of a number of Indian goods.

Delhi, Moscow To Double Trade by 1996

BK1509093194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] India and Russia are to double bilateral trade by 1996. Both countries agree that there is scope for trade and economic cooperation and this potential should be tapped quickly for mutual benefit. This was stated in a joint press conference by the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and the Russian deputy prime minister, Mr. Yuriy Yarov, at the end of the first two-day plenary session of the intergovernmental joint commission on trade and economic cooperation in Moscow yesterday. Mr. Mukherjee expressed satisfaction with the joint commission talks and noted that important decisions on expanding the framework of the commission have been taken.

Delhi Receives 'Assurance' on Debt

BK1509104094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Russia has promised to work out soon the modalities for utilizing the 3,000-crore rupee Indian debt repayment. The assurance was given by the Russian prime minister, Mr. Viktor Chernomyrdin, to the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, during their meeting in Moscow.

The Russian premier said his government will also prepare a three-year rolling [as heard] plan for the purchase of tea, tobacco, soyabean, and pharmaceuticals from India. The meeting was held shortly after the conclusion of the first session of India-Russian Joint Commission.

It has also been decided that a high-level Russian delegation will visit India next month to negotiate deals for the supply of Indian commodities. As reported earlier, both the countries at the Joint Commission meeting have agreed to double the bilateral trade by 1996.

Nuclear Energy Minister Arrives in Brasilia

LD1409235594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1755 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Kruglov]

[Text] Brasilia 14 Sep—Nuclear Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov arrived in the Brazilian capital to study prospects and to get cooperation between Brazil and Russia in the sphere of nuclear power engineering and advanced know-how. He reported in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that an intergovernment agreement on bilateral cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy is planned to be signed on results of the trip.

"This agreement has been worked on over a three-year period and it envisages mutual cooperation in the use of nuclear energy in many spheres," the minister said. "Brazil will become the first country on the South American continent, with which Russia will sign such an agreement. Earlier both 'the cold war' and the closed nature of our industry impeded the development of such contacts. [no end quotation mark as received]

In the past few years, Brazil, interested in the development of its own nuclear program, displayed great interest in acquiring advanced foreign technology, such as that of the Russian nuclear power engineering, Mikhaylov noted. In his opinion, there are big prospects for mutual interaction between the two countries in this sphere, especially with regard to nuclear power stations capable of supplying electricity to small towns in areas which are difficult of access, such as in the Amazon region, or in regions lacking in other power sources.

LDPR Team Talks With Iraqi Ba'th Party Leaders

LD1509013994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1626 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rafael Bikbayev]

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[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep—Today a delegation from the Russian Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] led by Aleksey Romanov, a member of its leadership, is in Baghdad and held talks with top representatives of the Iraqi governing Ba'th Party. Ways of developing inter-party links were discussed.

Latif Jasim, who was heading the Iraqi side, informed his interlocutors about the latest development in the situation surrounding relations between Iraq and the UN Security Council regarding anti-Iraqi economic sanctions.

For his part, a representative of Zhirinovskiy's party stated that the economic blockade of Iraq had delivered a blow to the interests of Russia and stressed that the LDPR will strive to strengthen relations of cooperation between Russia and Iraq.

Handling of UK Envoy Pankin's Removal Scored

MM1409103594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Shalnev: "Ambassador Heard That He Had Been Dismissed. Rumors Were Not Confirmed for a Whole Year"]

[Text] London—One of the strangest chapters in the current history of Russian diplomacy is coming to an end. This week London is seeing a change of Russian ambassadors: Boris Pankin, who has held this post for less than three years, is leaving, and Anatoliy Adamishin, a career diplomat, who has been first deputy foreign minister over the last few years, is replacing him.

The strange thing is that Pankin was dismissed from this post last September by edict of President Boris Yeltsin but, owing to circumstances which are still not clear, he managed to stay in the British capital for almost another year. Neither the Kremlin nor the skyscraper on Smolenskaya Ploshchad [location of Foreign Ministry] has provided any intelligible explanations or reasons for the dismissal, or said why the Russian president's edict has remained unfulfilled for a year.

According to those who attended a closed session of the Presidential Council last September, where inter alia our ambassadors in Washington were discussed, Yeltsin said quite decisively at the mention of Pankin's name: "He must be replaced, he's been laying it on a bit thick over there." The president did not clarify precisely what the ambassador had done, but he signed the edict virtually there and then.

This could hardly have happened without the consent, or at least without the knowledge, of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Nevertheless, according to reports circulating both in Moscow and London, literally a few weeks later during a visit to London Kozyrev assured Pankin that he had the full confidence of the Russian Government and could calmly carry on doing his job. According to reports from roughly the same sources,

neither then nor to all intents and purposes until very recently did Pankin receive official notification from Moscow that he had been removed from his ambassadorial post. What is more, even when it became known that the process of Adamishin's confirmation had already started and a draft edict appointing him to London was on the president's desk, Pankin's British friends—and he himself to all appearances—believed that the president would not sign it. Lord Nicholas Bethell wrote in London's THE TIMES—and this article was later reprinted or summarized in detail in certain Moscow publications—that "Yeltsin feels particular respect for Pankin, who as ambassador to Prague during the August [1991] coup was one of the few Soviet ambassadors to refuse to obey orders sent by the putschists to all embassies and to actually oppose the putschists."

It is known, however, that there is, to put it mildly, an equivocal attitude toward Pankin as London ambassador in the top echelons of the Foreign Ministry and that certain information leaks regarding the ambassador's incompetence originated there in Smolenskaya Ploshchad.

Be that as it may, the situation is not so much paradoxical as lamentable: At a time when Russian diplomacy, which has not yet acquired a sufficiently stable and worthy place in world diplomacy, should be scrupulously precise in its every move and decision, Moscow simply does not have the right to dare to leave one of the most important key ambassadorial positions up in the air for a year. And can competent work be expected of an ambassador who has heard that he has been sacked but who has received not official notification thereof but assurances of confidence?

Thus, a change of ambassador is taking place. Not at the most convenient time: The queen, the British head of state, is now on vacation in Scotland, and Anatoliy Adamishin will evidently not be able to present his credentials to her before Boris Yeltsin pays a working visit to London at the end of September.

No Submarines in Swedish Waters Since 1946

LD1409125894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1227
GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep—In connection with Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt's comment on submarines lurking in Swedish territorial waters, recently published in Stockholm, the Russian president's national security adviser, Yuriy Baturin, told ITAR-TASS that "according to the so far available data, there were no Soviet or Russian violations of Swedish waters in the period after 1946. The only exception, of course, was the episode with the 'S-363' submarine, which entered the Swedish territorial waters due to a navigational mistake and ran aground there."

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Baturin said that responding to a request from Emil Svensson, the Swedish prime minister's adviser for military-political matters, he had "received with understanding the desire of the Swedish side to clarify for itself the factual side of the confused affair," linked with submarine activity, and to discuss this problem "in a broader context, reverting once to the sum total of the amassed data in order to try to assess them objectively." Baturin said that, for his part, he could promise "the most benevolent and unbiased approach to the examination of all the available facts." "In solving a problem, I never reject any answer beforehand," he added.

Speaking about the preliminary results of the mutual consultations, Baturin said that "we have agreed, on the basis of the 1982 and 1992 recordings of underwater sounds, that they were produced by submarine apparatuses moving through Swedish territorial waters." However, the presidential adviser for national security holds that "an additional indepth analysis of all the available materials is needed to exactly classify the recorded sounds, which would make possible correct conclusions concerning the nationality of the mysterious underwater objects."

As to the sensational reports on "sea polecats, weasels or minks" emitting suspicious sounds, Baturin believes that "categoric assertions of this kind are also premature, because there is no catalogue of biological sounds and it is difficult to achieve a 100 per cent identification."

Baturin further said that "Russia was just as interested as Sweden in eliminating all the problems interfering with our mutual understanding and darkening the present-day Soviet-Swedish relations."

Alaskan Police, FBI Officers Visit Magadan

MM1409105194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 First Edition p 8

[Report by Mikhail Gorbunov: "They Called on Our Guys"]

[Text] Magadan—Police and FBI officers from the state of Alaska headed by Richard Burton, the state's secretary of public security, have spent a long time as guests of Magadan law enforcement organs.

This was the foreign neighbors' first visit to Magadan. They studied the work of the local administration for combatting organized crime and of militia and State Automobile Inspectorate rayon departments. The FBI officers met with staffers of the Federal Counterintelligence Service. The visit proved mutually useful: The U.S. "cops" shared with our guys information on Russian citizens who have broken laws in the United States.

Government Must Move To Ensure U.S. Investment

MM1409112794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Mikheyev: "U.S. Investment in Russia: Some Leaves, Other Arrives"]

[Text] During the summit meeting to be held in Washington 27-28 September President Yeltsin is expected to announce to Clinton administration staffers in charge of trade that the Russian Government is ready to make "modest but significant" moves to encourage foreign capital investment. State guarantees, which are already propping up the participation of an oil business giant like the U.S. Conoco company in extracting deposits in the Russian North, will become more substantial.

In turn a high-ranking White House official told ASSOCIATED PRESS that during the next three years the U.S. Government will spend almost half a billion dollars alone on private investment and on structural reorganization programs for the Russian economy. Under the "multiplier" law, discovered way back by Keynes, this should, according to the same anonymous but senior person, generate "hundreds of millions if not billions" of dollars, which will head for Russia.

As of today over 500 U.S. companies have opened their own office in our country. A remarkable fact in itself. But the benefit from and return on their presence will be multiplied.

The history of the Huntsman International corporation, which was one of the first to arrive in the undiscovered and newly emerging market in 1992, is instructive. Now that a major enterprise producing 35 million units of plastic crockery a year for aviation companies and the hotel business has already been built in Moscow, the Americans intend to pack their bags. Why?

"It was one of our intentions to create a free market oasis in the Soviet Union," John Huntsman Jr., vice president of the group of companies of the same name, admits. "At the moment the situation is such that it is very difficult to run a business. If the situation changes for the better we will think about returning."

In an exclusive newspaper confession published in the SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, the head of the corporation told of his unrealized hopes. Initially it was proposed that the Huntsman family business would grow thanks to "most favored trading status" granted by the Russian leadership: The plastics plant was to have been exempted from paying taxes for five years in advance. This concession was canceled by Yeltsin's edict.

The latest, hurricane-force blow took the form of a government demand: Huntsman International must pay a 40-percent tax which applies to all the joint enterprise's assets as of 1992, on top of which fines must be paid as well as the 250 percent interest that has accumulated during this period.

The company is being given a total bill of \$500,000. The matter has gone to arbitration. But it is easy to predict the outcome. As John Huntsman Jr. stated, "as soon as everything is over and we have paid whatever we really owe, we will be out of here."

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It is to be hoped that there are no rules without exceptions. The previously quoted high-ranking official in the Clinton entourage is full of cautious optimism:

"We are encouraged by the signs of stabilization and dynamism in the Russian economy."

The U.S. Administration is changing the emphasis by abandoning humanitarian aid in favor of encouraging private investment. If there is some corresponding movement on Moscow's part the flow of U.S. capital investment will cease to be reminiscent of a two-way street—some dollars are setting out to try their luck in Russian virgin lands, while others are fleeing from them.

U.S. Attitudes Toward Russia Pondered

MM1409121794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 3

[Article by Ilya Baranikas: "Jealousy from Overseas, or Does America Want Russia To Remain a Great Power?"]

[Text] New York—In a bipolar world it was all very simple: On one side you had the East headed by the USSR, and on the other side you had the West headed by the United States. To distinguish the leaders of the two blocs from the "merely great powers"—Britain, France, and China—they invented the term "superpower." It is more complicated now that the "socialist camp," the Soviet Union, and East-West confrontation have ceased to exist. In the new conditions the United States is finding it hard to define not only Russia's role, but even its own role in international affairs.

When the possible intervention in Haiti was being discussed in the U.S. Congress, Republican legislators pointed out to the Democrat administration that the United States must no longer be a world gendarme. And they were taking readings from the barometer of public opinion: The majority of Americans do not want U.S. soldiers to participate in any operations on foreign territory—be it in Haiti, Bosnia, or Somalia. The image of the hostile Russian bear has vanished, and with it the incentive for U.S. patriotism and bellicose "internationalism" ("let's stick up for them...").

But not interfering oneself is one thing; allowing others to interfere is quite another. The United States is jealously watching Russia restore its own traditional sphere of influence and is doing its best to limit this process at least geographically. Generally speaking, the administration has taken the following stance of late: Let Russia sort things out on its southern borders—in Central Asia and the Caucasus—but not encroach on the West.

When Boris Yeltsin announced that Russian forces could remain in the Baltic area after the agreed withdrawal deadline (31 August), the White House expressed its unequivocal disapproval. As regards Ukraine, the U.S.

Administration has, time after time, stressed the necessity of its existing as an independent state. But Washington has made no comment at all on the participation of Russian forces in events taking place in Georgia or Tajikistan—let them sort things out in the troubled south of the former Soviet Union, otherwise we might have to send in our own guys as part of a UN force....

It is true that the United States is refusing to give the Baltic area any real security guarantees, although it claims to understand its fears about Russia. The point is that the United States is guided not by ideological dogmas but by purely pragmatic considerations, by what is in America's interests and what is not. Why make a commitment to defend Poland or Lithuania when you can get them to participate, together with Russia, in the "Partnership for Peace," which is not binding on anyone. Why deal with two (or, even worse, four) nuclear powers on the territory of the former USSR, when you can deal with one?

Time after time Washington remembers, belatedly, as it were, Russia's special role in international affairs. Here is the latest example: First an ultimatum was given to the Serbs, and then top-level telephone consultations began with Moscow.

Two qualities inherent in the American nation are making their mark on attitudes toward Russia. On the one hand, there is practicality: Why, for example, spend billions yourself on the construction of an orbital station, when you can cooperate with the Russians, who already have the "Mir" station, and it would be far cheaper? On the other hand, America sees itself as the center of the world and cannot imagine another country surpassing it in any way. For example, during the debate on health reform, many leading U.S. politicians described the existing medical services system in America as the "best in the world." Although one might remind senators that people in the United States are unable to call a doctor to their homes and people taken to U.S. hospitals as emergency cases often have to spend hours waiting to be attended to.

But, of course, the way America views Russia is not the main thing. Considerably more important is what role it regards itself as playing in world affairs. At the moment, for example, all Russian politicians visiting the United States stress that Western aid is of "marginal importance" for Russia—in other words, it does not matter whether there is aid or not, basically. Probably, this is true: In fact, the long-term aid the West has promised Russia is considerably less than what the FRG is spending annually on the regeneration of the former GDR.

The world does not have the money to turn Russia into America. Moscow is now beginning to realize this—it is now endeavoring to boost its economy through its own efforts. Indeed, economic development is the main criterion of "great-power status": Not so long ago a U.S. magazine suggested that Great Britain should simply be

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called Britain, because it had fallen to a "shameful level" from the socioeconomic viewpoint.

Moscow Seeks End to U.S. Uranium Export Restrictions

LD1409153494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow plans to raise the question of lifting U.S. trade restrictions on Russian exports of nuclear materials including natural uranium during President Yeltsin's three-day visit to Washington starting September 26, an Atomic Energy Ministry representative told Interfax.

However, he said, these will remain in place unless Washington recognizes Russia as a country with a transitional economy.

Under this year's amendment to the trade agreement between the United States and the former Soviet Union, Russia was granted an annual export quota of 3000

tonnes of natural uranium to the U.S. market in 1994 and 1995. The document, however, also puts a range of tough restrictions on Russian exports.

One such restriction stipulates that Russia can sell only half of the amount of what is stated in its contracts with the US. The other half is to be supplied by U.S. uranium producers. This means Russia has to conclude a contract for the sale of 6000 tonnes of uranium so as to be able to sell 3000 tonnes.

Russia and the United States have already agreed to sell 56 tonnes of uranium each next January on the US market in line with the American amendment. There are also restrictions on Russian exports of enriched uranium to the United States.

Estimates put Russia's potential for natural uranium exports at 6000 tonnes a year, while it has the potential to sell a total of 30,000 tonnes of other nuclear materials on world markets.

Political Issues**Chechen Conflict To Be Contained Within Borders***LD1409210094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2254 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—Russian Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policy Nikolay Yegorov described the political situation in the troubled Chechen republic as a state of balance.

"Dzhokhar Dudayev is no longer capable of ensuring the stability of his rule, while the opposition is not yet strong enough to seize power in the republic", he told TASS.

Speaking about Russia's regions bordering on Chechnya, Yegorov stressed that the safety of local residents "is fully guaranteed" and ruled out the possibility of the Chechen conflict spreading onto their territory.

Kostikov Predicts No New Bloodshed This Fall*LD1509081794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0615 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov announced in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the Russian president intends to take every measure to strengthen civil accord. According to him, on his return to Moscow from his vacation Boris Yeltsin will consult with the prime minister and leaders of the chambers of the Federal Assembly. V. Kostikov said it is not ruled out that the president will set out his action program for the near future in an address to the nation.

The press secretary noted that the political scene in the fall of 1994 will be "muscular". At the same time he expressed confidence that "the extremists will not be able to provoke the country into flames." Saying this V. Kostikov referred to figures from a serious analysis which are evidence of the collapse of attempts by Aleksandr Rutskoy and Gennadiy Zyuganov "to scorch the periphery" and show that they have nothing to put up against the policies of the president and the prime minister.

As regards the observations of a number of commentators on a shift in the president's activities in foreign policy, Vyacheslav Kostikov noted that this has been caused by a number of objective reasons. "Russian policy was at the center of an explosive formation," the president's press secretary said. "Hence arose the need to get acquainted with the world, the top leaders, and personally get involved in the process of developing the basic parameters for a world policy."

Apart from that, he indicated, the president has serious visits to Britain and the United States, in connection with which he has to digest a significant amount of analytical materials, including materials on economic issues, since the president has a number of meetings with representatives of American business. Vyacheslav Kostikov, however, noted that in this political year which is just beginning the president intends to concentrate his efforts to a greater degree on domestic policy. At this time, according to the press secretary, Boris Yeltsin is forming, on the basis of materials prepared by the president's analysts and aides, a block of priority political actions, in which "he intends to take a very active part."

Rumored Coalition Cabinet Plan Assessed*MK1409120094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 3*

[Report by Grigoriy Zaychenko: "Presidential Aides Wish That Communists Fail"]

[Excerpts] The presidential staff, still intent on social accord, has recently published an upbeat report on the subject. The publication could be the start of yet another political campaign around the pact, which has much more far-reaching implications than the spring signing of the pact itself. [passage omitted]

Presidential structures are planning to hold a series of events in September-October somehow or other connected with the pact. Namely, the president's address to the nation on the anniversary of publication of Edict 1400, and his address to the Federal Assembly at the opening of its fall session on 5 October; various round-table are scheduled, and everything should end in a congress of parties and movements that signed the pact.

The plan is not limited to purely procedural matters: Recently there have been persistent leaks of negotiations conducted by presidential aide Georgiy Satarov and his apparatus with opposition leaders about the possibility of a coalition government's being created with the participation of communists, agrarians, and other Duma factions (the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, however, does not figure in coalition projects).

The creation of a coalition government could appear as the high point of social accord. By the logic of the main promoter of this idea—Georgiy Satarov—the agrarian-communist cabinet will undoubtedly be of little use both to the Russian economy and to the president himself. On the other hand, however, such a plan could bring Yeltsin's team political dividends in the future. A coalition cabinet's incompetence is obvious, and if such a government were created in the fall, it would most likely have to resign with a scandal in spring-summer 1995, at the height of an election campaign. And because the pact would be fully implemented and the position fully discredited, this would kill a large number of birds with one stone. [passage omitted]

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Social Accord Pact Seen Working

MK1509075094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Anna Ostapchuk, Yuliy Lebedev in the "Conference" column: "The Political Barometer Says 'Clear.' The Filatov Commission Is Working Out Conciliation Mechanisms"]

[Excerpts] No political storms are expected in Russia so far. This was demonstrated by a session of the Conciliation Commission on the Implementation of the Social Accord Pact which took place on 13 September. It seems that this document is now a kind of political barometer indicating the condition of our society. The political subjects that signed the pact have so far been more or less honoring its terms (or at least not making any serious complaints against each other). In any event, with two exceptions (the legislative assembly of Perm Oblast and the metallurgy industry trade union), no one has recalled his signature. Only two signatories have announced their possible denunciation of the pact: Vladimir Zhirnovskiy, loudly and forcefully; and the leadership of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, quietly and cautiously. [passage omitted]

Sergey Filatov, chairman of the Conciliation Commission and presidential chief of staff, believes that a guarantee of the pact's implementation is the creation of various supplementary conciliation committees and commissions. He said that a commission on the nonpayments problems (overseen by Oleg Soskovets) has been working actively, as has a commission on tax reform whose task is to reduce taxation of producers by at least 10-20 percent (overseen by Aleksandr Shokhin). A press center is to be created soon where signatories to the pact, primarily representatives of the power establishment, will be meeting regularly with journalists. A series of meetings with representatives of the public is also planned. Today Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the lower house, is to meet with intelligentsia, and in the near future government ministers will meet with enterprise directors.

Furthermore, several discussion roundtables have been at work whose chiefs reported on their performance to the session of the Commission on the Implementation of the Pact. [passage omitted]

The idea of a United Commission to Coordinate Legislative Activity could be fruitful provided those political forces that are not represented in the legislative bodies are involved. Characteristically, Academician Boris Topornin, who now heads the Public Chamber under the president, has been proposed as its leader. The high point of this intense activity should be an assembly of signatories to the pact scheduled for October 1994.

Gaydar 'Prepared' for Democratic Unification

MM1409122394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Zifa Karimova: "Gaydar Prepared for Unification"]

[Text] At the end of last week Yegor Gaydar returned to Moscow from a five-day tour of the country. A group of leaders of the "Russia's Democratic Choice" party visited Kaliningrad, Bryansk, Ulyanovsk, Krasnodar, and Tyumen. At Vnukovo airport Gaydar answered questions from journalists, who included a ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent.

Yegor Gaydar assessed the sociopolitical situation as "very diverse" and as a whole the Democratic Choice members were welcomed with understanding and there was a desire to hear them. People want to understand what is happening in the country. The feeling is that mindless promises to resolve all problems very rapidly and simply have ceased to operate.

In Gaydar's opinion growing protectionism is giving rise to the most acute hostility. Customs tariffs, nonpayments in the social sphere, fluctuations and inconsistency in economic policy, serious stoppages in agrarian reform, and inflation were the main things of interest to people. Answering journalists' questions about the rate of inflation, Yegor Gaydar said that the prolonged trend toward the rise of the dollar at monthly rates of about 4-5 percent will persist in the very near future. There is the factor of disturbance and change in monetary policy in the past few months and the increase in the import of capital. They contradict each other. "But as a whole I think this will not cause a revolution on the domestic market."

Everywhere there were groups of Communists who voiced their protest. It is pleasant, the "Russia's Democratic Choice" party chairman noted, that everywhere these groups are numerically small. "It is obvious that the potential for social explosion on which the Communists counted does not exist."

The opposition has published its plans 21 September through 3 October. What are the democrats setting against these plans? "I am deeply convinced that whatever plans the opposition may construct, in the country now there is no basis for revolution or mass manifestations of displeasure and protest. Of course, there are serious problems. But people do not want confrontation. They want to work and earn in peace and to improve their lives. And that is the most reliable guarantee that the opposition's attempts to organize revolution, rebellion, and barricades—everything in which enormous organizational efforts and money will be invested—will not bear fruit."

Can it be asserted that "Russia's Democratic Choice" has ceased to be the capital's party? Gaydar believes that

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he never was the party of the center. Indeed, the Democratic Choice members have very strong positions in Moscow and St. Petersburg. But they also have strong positions in Yekaterinburg, Perm, Chelyabinsk, Yaroslavl, Kaliningrad, and other cities. The strength of the party lies in the fact that it relies seriously on its regional organizations. Actually, the tour of the country was caused by the need to render propaganda and organizational aid to the branches of the "Russia's Democratic Choice" party locally. They are in need of collaboration and a constant flow of information from Moscow.

Yegor Timurovich expressed himself as follows regarding the possibility of pooling all the country's democratic forces: "If you think not about how good you will look in the president's seat but about what your responsibility to Russia is then in my view the pooling of democratic forces is the duty of these parties' leaders." I very much hope that they will succeed in overcoming their ideas of their own importance. And that they will fulfill their duties, achieving the point where the opposition's presidential candidates are opposed by a single candidate from the democratic camp. Hence I speak of the expediency of holding a congress of democratic forces if it can resolve three problems: A single nomination for the post of the country's president; a unified procedure for nomination district by district; and specific rules for conducting the propaganda campaign for all democratic blocs." As for the "Russia's Democratic Choice" party it is prepared for this unification, its leader said in conclusion.

Rutskoy Seeks Single 'Patriotic' Electoral Alliance

LD1409162194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Russia's former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has called on all of Russia's so-called patriotic forces to form one election alliance. Rutskoy was speaking at a public rally in Kaliningrad, western Russia, where he arrived to attend the first congress of patriotic forces which has chosen the theme of "Russian Border from Kaliningrad to the Kurils."

The congress will be held on September 16-17 behind closed doors. Rutskoy said that its main purpose would be to name the leader of a future opposition alliance.

Rutskoy said that he did not seek to lead any such union. However, he did not rule out the possibility if the people will it.

Rutskoy, who is the leader of Russia's Revival movement, strongly opposed the use of force in political struggle, "because the change in government must take place only in a legal, constitutional way."

Participants in the congress include Russian Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy as well as Valeri

Zorkin, Yuriy Vlasov, Valentin Rasputin, Mikhail Astafyev, Sergey Baburin and others.

Workers Congress Slated for 1-2 Oct

MM1409132194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS, POSTFACTUM, PRAVDA column report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Russia Will Hear Its Workers"]

[Text] A congress of Russian workers will be held 1-2 October in Moscow. Its participants will discuss the draft of the first manifesto of the country's working class. Contact telephone number 292-60-63.

Prosecutor General Appeals Varennikov's Acquittal

LD1409225694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The Russian Prosecutor General Office has appealed against the acquittal of former USSR deputy defense minister Valentin Varennikov by the Military Collegium of the Russian Supreme Court.

The center for public relations of the Russian Prosecutor General Office told Interfax that the Prosecutor General's Office had requested the cancellation of the acquittal of Varennikov and holding a retrial with other judges.

On August 11 Varennikov was found not guilty of high treason, linked to the failed August coup of 1991.

The Prosecutor General's Office said that the case had not been investigated properly and the investigation did not establish significant facts.

Furthermore, the Office said that the conclusions of the court had not been proved by the evidence considered during the legal proceedings. The verdict contains serious contradictions and when pronouncing it the court did take into account evidence which could have significantly influenced its decision.

Resolutions Adopted To Limit Influx of Migrants

LD1409153694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lilia Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow September 14—Russia is expected to shortly stop uncontrolled migration from foreign countries. Thus, the Russian government has passed a package of resolutions to prevent and reduce the inflow of refugees from third countries to Russia.

Commenting on these resolutions, the deputy head of the Federal Migration Service (FMS), Vladimir Volokh, noted that unchecked migration to Russia is now assuming an unprecedented scale. FMS experts estimate

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the number of illegal immigrants in the country at some half a million people. This has become a very serious problem indeed, since many refugees, having no money to live on, get engaged in illegal business, trading in work force, drugs and arms, thus aggravating the crime situation in Russia, according to the FMS deputy head.

However, Volokh expressed hope that things in this sphere would shortly straighten out. The resolutions aiming to prevent and reduce uncontrolled migration, as well as to tighten migration control are to provide the FMS with a clear-cut procedure for granting migrants the status of a refugee, for expelling from the country those not eligible for this status, as well as for barring most illegal immigrants on the border.

The FMS official also stressed that the resolutions had clearly defined all criteria for granting the refugee status, denying this status, as well as for revoking it.

Car Bomb Deactivated in Moscow Oblast

LD1509101694 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 0826 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Sep—On Wednesday evening specialists of the Federal Counterintelligence Service rendered harmless two radio-controlled explosive devices laid under a Mercedes-600 car belonging to an adviser of a foreign economic association.

Today, *ITAR-TASS* learned at the Federal Counterintelligence Service directorate for Moscow and Moscow Oblast that after receiving a signal at 1315 [0915 GMT], a group of specialists left for house number two in Kirovogradskaya Street, where the car was parked. It was established that explosive devices, equivalent to 300 grams of TNT, and a telescopic antennae, which can be activated from a distance of 100-500 meters, had been laid under the Mercedes.

To ensure safety, law enforcement bodies switched off the electricity supply to the house and temporarily evacuated its residents. Subunits of militia, civil defense, and an ambulance were assembled in the area of the incident.

Having established that there was no other way to render them harmless, at 1730 [1330 GMT] the explosive devices together with the car were deactivated by shots from a sniper rifle. None of the residents in the house suffered, though on the ground and first floors some glass was smashed.

Media Issues

Prosecutor Seeks Sanctions Against ZAVTRA

LD1409162594 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1336 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The Russian General Prosecutor's Office has appealed to Roskompechat, the state press committee, to

immediately adopt measures against *Zavtra* newspaper for stirring up social intolerance and discord, an act punishable by law, the General Prosecutor's Office told *Interfax*. A special edition of the newspaper, entitled *Anathema No 2*, published in August, is the main cause for this appeal.

The General Prosecutor's Office attracted the attention of Roskompechat to the fact that having appropriated the powers of investigation bodies and the court, some editions of the newspaper declare many participants in the October 1993 events in Moscow criminals and even pass out sentences against them, while openly calling for revenge.

Under the law only circumstances and facts revealed while observing criminal-investigation procedures can be used for proving guilt. Any other means of receiving information about the incident are illegal and any accusations on their basis can be assessed as slander, the General Prosecutor's Office underlined.

According to the General Prosecutor's Office, *Zavtra* newspaper has violated Article 4 of the "Decree on the Mass Media," prohibiting the use of the mass media for committing illegal activities. The decree provides for the suspension or closing of the newspaper by a court of law.

Text of Prosecutor's Statement

MM1509113194 Moscow *ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian* 15 Sep 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Do Not Abuse Freedom of Speech. Statement by Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office"]

[Text] The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office is continuing to investigate the case involving mass disorders in Moscow 3-4 October 1993. Work is in progress to establish comprehensively and objectively the circumstances and consequences of the incidents.

At the same time articles are appearing in a number of mass media sources which clearly distort the circumstances of what happened. Individual publications, appropriating the powers of the investigation and the courts, proclaim many of the participants in these events to be criminals, and are even determining the punitive measures for them, blatantly calling for vengeance. Articles of this kind include, in particular, special edition No. 2 of *ZAVTRA*, published in August under the headline "Anathema."

In this connection the General Prosecutor's Office states that, according to the law, only circumstances and facts obtained while observing the established form of criminal procedure can be used as evidence of guilt in the perpetration of crimes. All other methods of obtaining information about what happened—including those used by certain journalists—are unlawful, and accusations based on them can be deemed nothing but slander.

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The General Prosecutor's Office has demanded that the Russian Committee for the Press immediately adopt the measures stipulated by the law in connection with the violation committed by ZAVTRA of Article 4 of the Law "On the Mass Media," which forbids the use of the mass media to commit criminal offenses or the inflammation of social intolerance or strife.

At the same time the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office serves notice that this instance of the abuse of the freedom of mass information will not be left without its attention or reaction.

Economic Issues

Minister Refutes Reports of U.S. Grain Deal

LD1309121294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1135 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] No grain contracts were concluded during U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy's recent visit to Russia, Russia's Minister for Agriculture Viktor Khlystun announced on Monday evening. He thus refuted media reports about the conclusion of major grain contracts to paid with US credits.

Khlystun confirmed during a conference at the Ministry for Agriculture that in 1994 Russia would need to import 5-7 million tonnes of grain, above all corn and soymeal. However, no contracts have been signed yet.

The Ministry for Agriculture also opposes the lifting of customs duties on imported food stuffs. On July 1, Russia introduced 5 to 20 percent duties on food imports.

The Western media, with reference to the U.S. Agriculture Department, reports that Washington may extend Russia a loan of \$200-400 million for purchasing individual varieties of grain, for instance up to 4.5 million tonnes of corn. Espy told the press that the date for resumption of the talks on credits had not been fixed yet and that Moscow had not announced how much grain it seeks.

In the past Russia imported up to 25 million tonnes of grain, annually, mostly from the U.S.

Agrarian Party Seeks Government Concessions

LD1309195794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Leaders of the Agrarian Party of Russia (APR) have instructed one of their fellow deputies and head of the Agrarian Committee Aleksandr Nazarchuk to hold a joint session with its counterpart of the Federation Council (the upper house) early next month. Agrarian union representatives are also expected to attend the meeting intended to discuss the implementation of farmers' demands put forward by the All Russia rally held in Moscow early in August. APR Deputy President Nikolay Kharitonov told Interfax.

He said there had so far been no reaction from the Cabinet though time for government concessions was long overdue.

Kharitonov said that the coordinating board of collective action sponsoring last month's rally was determined to get all of the economic package put in place.

This includes demands for an end to the deliberate overhauling of the farming sector and for embracing a land reform in favor of those who till it as well as government support for the agro-industrial complex. The agrarians also press for new presidential elections and the resignation of the government.

Kharitonov threatened tougher actions if the farmers' package was once again rejected.

Grain Harvest 50% Complete; Estimated Yield Drops

LD1309205594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The harvest in Russia is now past the halfway point. Peasants have already harvested more than 50 percent of the grain and have threshed about 50 million tonnes of grain. This was stated by Ivan Bredasov, head of the Chief Administration of Arable Farming of the Russian Agriculture and Food Ministry. He noted that the mean yield of grain crops was lower than last year. The final gross yield of grain is currently estimated at 90 million tonnes as compared with last year's 99 million.

Glazyev on Steps To Halt 'Severe Depression'

MK1409101094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Petr Zhuravlev under the "Economist" rubric: "Sergey Glazyev Is Still Displeased With the Government. The Deputy 'Will Not Be Deceived by Talk About Stabilization'"]

[Text] The most severe depression "that has ever occurred" was how Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma Committee on Economic Policy, described Russia's economic situation yesterday. At a meeting with "representatives of Moscow's business community" he said that "plans for the country's economic and social development in the first six months have been thwarted, the budget expenditures have been financed by only two-thirds, and the industrial downturn reached 27 percent." Given that, the deputy thinks, "hardly anyone can be deceived by talk about stabilization."

Demands regarding the government's economic policy that were formulated by Mr. Glazyev yesterday, as usual, boil down to "drastic measures to reverse structural shifts toward industrial degradation, to boost demand, and to protect the internal market." In the economist's opinion, material production and, first of all, consumer and state demand could be revived only by recognizing "government debts and issuing debt obligations that

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could be converted into domestic durable goods or invested," and also by repaying debts, which have reached 1 trillion rubles in unpaid wages alone, to economic entities.

Government policy during the first six months, Sergey Glazyev said, "has been characterized by astonishing profligacy—a huge amount of privileges have been granted," and as a consequence the budget is losing 3.5 trillion rubles on goods subject to excise duty alone. If what the deputy sees as undeserved privileges are completely abolished, an extra 6 trillion rubles in budget revenues could be collected. In addition, proceeds from privatization "could be 20 times the figure" released by the State Property Committee.

It is essential to impose quantitative import limitations and to apply customs tariffs more flexibly, Mr. Glazyev thinks, for owing to the granting of privileges in foreign economic activity and the policy of overpricing the ruble against hard currencies, imported goods currently account for 50 percent of the entire trade turnover. As for domestic enterprises, they operate at 20 to 30 percent of their capacities, a situation that could lead to mass bankruptcies as early as this fall.

The deputy called government methods in the area of macroeconomic stabilization impermissible—"inflation cannot be suppressed simply by withholding wages." Instead, Mr. Glazyev recommended that it "should not hesitate" to take drastic measures to overcome the nonpayments crisis—but not through bankruptcies. Among other radical steps the government needs to take, he mentioned tax system reform that will replace profit and income taxes with a consumption tax.

Hitherto, in giving his assessments or proposing his methods, Sergey Glazyev was banging on a closed door. This time, however, he thinks that the situation might change. The State Duma committee chief is pinning great hopes on the All-Russia Congress of Commodity Producers, scheduled to take place in a week in Cheboksary, a congress whose recommendations and requests the government had better heed.

Central Bank Chair Favors Some State Control

LD1409232694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 14 Sep

[Text] Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko has spoken in favor of preserving elements of state control of the country's economic development.

"We must not reject the state's regulating role in the economy too rapidly," he told a news conference Wednesday devoted to the opening of an international banking congress in St. Petersburg.

Gerashchenko said he had seen a draft federal budget for 1995 pointing out the Central Bank had not been asked to join its development.

"I cannot call it a correct phenomenon," he said. Gerashchenko pointed out that "over recent time both the government and the Central Bank have been getting a stronger hold of the country's economy through economic rather than administrative levers."

Bankers Press for Government Security Guarantees

LD1409150794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Representatives of 18 leading Russian banks have ended a meeting in Moscow in which they discussed the need for government guarantees for commercial bank loans. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and President of the Central Bank of Russia (CBR) Viktor Gerashchenko also attended.

In a later interview with Interfax, acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin said that a number of banks including Agrobank and Inkombank insisted that a special resolution be taken to provide government security guarantees for commercial credits to be used for government projects.

An Agrobank representative called for a selective government approach to the question of deferring loan repayments to help the banks partially compensate their losses.

Dubinin said the bankers also called on the government to trim down its list of investment projects by indicating the main directions of capital investment and working together with them on a mechanism of cooperation. They also believe the central and local governments must agree beforehand how credits will be used so as to prevent them from being channelled elsewhere.

Bankers have supported the CBR's recent move aimed at tighter controls over financial operations, especially clamping down on unlicensed banks.

Government May Allow Foreign Control of Oil Companies

LD1509082894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0605 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The Russian Government is willing to examine the issue of placing several major oil refineries situated in the European and Asian parts of Russia under the control of foreign investors. According to a high-ranking source close to the leadership of the oil sector, those most likely to become free of government protection are enterprises whose economic position is close to catastrophic.

Early Sep Inflation Figures Viewed

MM1509084594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 First Edition p 5

[Report based on "materials of the Economic Market Conditions Center under the Russian Federation Government" under the "Week's Prices: 30 August Through

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5 September" rubric: "Don't Ask How Much Eggs Cost Now.... Everything Is So Expensive Now"]

[Text] According to the data of federal statistical organs, the overall inflation index for the past week stood at 101.6 percent. As previously, the growth in the tariffs for paid services to the population outstripped the change in the prices of food and nonfood goods. The average cost of the 19 most important foodstuffs amounted to 61,900 rubles [R] per month—0.4 percent higher than the previous week.

The prices of basic foodstuffs increased 1 percent during the past week, but whereas in organized trade they increased 1.4 percent, in the markets, where fruit and vegetables account for a considerable proportion of purchases, their average level was 2 percent lower than the previous week. Of the foodstuffs being monitored, an increase in prices was recorded for practically all groups except fruit and vegetable produce. A substantial increase in prices—4 percent during the week—was noted for bread and flour products, eggs, sugar, vegetable oil, and flour. Meat and dairy products and groat, pasta, and confectionery products went up 2 percent. At the same time fruit and vegetable prices fell 4-6 percent.

The rate of change in food prices differed by 2.7 percentage points between individual economic regions. On the whole, food prices did not increase in the Far Eastern and East Siberian Regions, while for inhabitants of the Central Chernozem Region, where sugar, flour, and individual types of canned goods went up 9 percent, their overall level was 2.6 percent higher than the previous week.

The average cost of a basket of 19 of the most important foodstuffs increased 0.4 percent and doubled during the period since the beginning of the year. The cost of this basket at prices in organized trade was equal to R60,200 and, at prices in unorganized trade, to R75,700.

The difference between the maximum and minimum cost of the basket in various Russian cities diminished, compared with the previous week, and amounted to 3.7 times against 4.1 times.

The cost of a basket of 19 of the most important foodstuffs in Moscow fell by R45 during the week and amounted to R70,400, while in St. Petersburg, with a slight increase in it, the basket cost R65,200. On the list of cities being monitored Moscow remained in 30th place, while St. Petersburg moved from 39th to 40th place.

Meanwhile the prices of nonfood goods increased 1.9 percent, which is the largest weekly figure for three months.

Prices of medicines are continuing to change substantially. Their increase as a whole during the week amounted to 6 percent. Wallpaper and matches went up 3 percent. At the same time the prices of cotton fabrics

and articles made from them, as well as electrical household appliances and footwear, increased 1 percent. But a slight reduction in the prices of women's summer footwear was recorded.

The increase in the prices of industrial commodities was most palpable for the inhabitants of the North Caucasus—3.2 percent. The prices of nonfood goods changed least of all in the Northwestern and Central Chernozem Regions—by 0.8 percent.

There is still a big difference in the prices of a considerable proportion of the nonfood goods being monitored in various Russian cities. It is particularly noticeable for children's goods. For example, the prices of garments for adults differ by a factor of three to six times, while those for children differ by a factor of six to 10 times, while the corresponding figures for knitwear are five to six times and six to nine times, and for footwear—five to six times and 11 times.

Income Gap Between Richest, Poorest Rises

MM1409101394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 Sep 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "In Terms of Income Gap Between Rich and Poor We Will Soon Catch Up With United States"]

[Text] The Russian State Committee for Statistics reported Tuesday that, based on the results of January-August 1994, the gap between the incomes of Russia's richest and poorest inhabitants was in the ratio 11:1.

Back in 1991 this indicator did not top 4.5:1, while in 1992 and 1993 the figures were 8:1 and 11:1 respectively. Statistics attest that 10 percent of the country's richest citizens now account for 26 percent of all monetary income in the country, while the poorest 10 percent only account for 2 percent thereof. Specialists from the Expert Institute of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs do not rule out the idea that by the end of 1994 in terms of this indicator Russia may catch up with the United States, where the gap between rich and poor has reached a ratio of 14:1.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Elite Units Moved to Moscow To Support Yeltsin

MK1409104094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian
14 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Vadim Yegorov under the "Prospects" rubric: "A Circle of Moscow Military District Elite Divisions and Interior Troops Being Set Up Around Moscow. Maybe, To Defend the Capital From One's Own Army, Among Other Things"]

[Text] The Armed Forces' loyalty to top state officials has always been a matter of unremitting concern and keenest attention by the powers that be, particularly in

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difficult and transitional periods in the development of each specific country. The history of the past few decades gives numerous examples where sour relations with the military resulted in wholly disastrous consequences for political leaders. The latter were in for exile or imprisonment at best, or death at the hands of assassins or a death sentence in a summary trial at the worst. Such things occur even in countries with sustainable democratic traditions and a sophisticated system of civilian control over the armed forces.

It is well known that the Russian Federation cannot be presently included among such. This is why its current leadership is paying critical attention to the situation inside the Armed Forces, as it thinks that they might pose a threat to the existence of the current political regime and its long-term plans for the future. Admittedly, such fears are not without grounds.

Objectively speaking, the Russian Army cannot be a supporter of the president's and the government's policy. At present, this most important state institution is undergoing a profound crisis. Following the USSR's breakup it has lost its most combat-ready assault forces of the first operative echelon deployed in the Trans-Carpathian, Kiev, Odessa, and Belorussian Military Districts. The Western and Northwestern Groups of Forces have ceased to exist. The Baltic Fleet has lost its naval bases that had been used by Russian ships since the times of Peter the Great. The Armed Forces' officer corps has degenerated from a privileged part of society into cast-aways, vagabonds with shoulder boards standing on the lowest rung of the social ladder.

The process of cutting the Army's strength has been proceeding at a breakneck, avalanche pace. At the moment of its official foundation (as of 7 May 1992), the Russian Armed Forces were 2.8 million men strong. A total of 200,000 men were discharged from service till the end of 1992, followed by another 300,000 in 1993. This year, 400,000 servicemen will have to take off their uniforms. Given that Boris Yeltsin has set the goal of trimming the Armed Forces to an overall strength of 1.5 million men, another 500,000 are planned to be discharged in 1995. These are horrifying figures, and an unacceptable pace. In addition, the hopes of many officers of acquiring homes have been dashed following the collapse of the state program for providing housing for servicemen and those discharged into the reserves for 1993-1995. For instance, according to the Main Apartment-Operation Directorate, the Russian Federation Defense Ministry received 20,000 apartments fewer than planned for 1993, and out of its 1994 quota of 61,700 apartments it has in fact received only 18,000 (commissioned as of this past August).

Army and Navy officers hold the Russian president largely responsible for their plight. All this could not but affect his popularity, particularly after the events of last October. Presently not more than 20 percent of officers and warrant officers, particularly those who combine

service with unauthorized commercial activity, support Boris Yeltsin. Widespread opposition sentiments have crept into the Armed Forces, a trend that has been increasingly reported by Federal Counterintelligence Service military counterintelligence departments. Anyway, the president himself has long realized that the Army is unreliable. Not only has he realized that, but he has also drawn appropriate conclusions.

When the budget pie was being allocated, the emphasis was placed on satisfying the Armed Forces' minimum requirements. Instead of the vital 55 trillion rubles required, the government—at the president's prodding—planned to earmark a mere 37 trillion (the figure grew to 40.6 trillion after consideration by the State Duma) for defense needs. Army officers' pay and allowances have been frozen. Boris Yeltsin has been treating other power agencies more deferentially, though. The main principle is, the closer you are to the president, the higher the salaries. For instance, a warrant officer of the Main Security Administration is paid more than a General Staff colonel. For servicemen of the Presidential Security Service, the Main Security Administration, the Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information, and the Federal Counterintelligence Service, a special system of extra allowances on top of base pay has been introduced that account for 25 to 100 percent of base pay. Similar methods have been applied to interior troop officers.

Apart from purely financial incentives, measures have been taken to increase the authorized strength of special troops and to enhance their mobility and fire power. Till the end of this year, the strength of interior troops in the vicinity of Moscow will rise by 52,000 men. They will be equipped with aircraft (assault and transportation helicopters) and armored hardware.

The combat training schedule of the Separate Operational-Purpose Division (the former Dzerzhinskiy Interior Troop Division) will involve combat operations in urban areas, the practicing of assaults for the purpose of seizing buildings, and the fighting of mass riots.

Against the backdrop of such preparations, I heard an ominous ring in a statement by a general from a special directorate of the presidential administration, who told me: "The presidential building in the Kremlin is not being reconstructed for someone else to move into Boris Yeltsin's study in 1996." Apparently in order to neutralize possible protests by army units detached from the Western and Northwestern Groups of Forces that would fare particularly woefully in severe field conditions (tank divisions in Boguchar and Yelna) should Boris Yeltsin's term be extended for an indefinite period, Moscow is being encircled with a belt of elite divisions whose personnel will soon be switched to enhanced standards of all kinds of logistic support. Apart from special units of the interior troops, they will include the 2d Motorized Rifle Division (Tamanskaya), the 4th Tank Division (Kantemirovskaya), the 27th Separate Motorized Rifle

Brigade, and also airborne regiments and brigades with attached support units. They will all be interconnected by a single command and control network that will operate in parallel with the currently existing system. At the same time, the experience of the October events has been taken into account. After the General Staff's communications center was switched off, command and control was paralyzed, which caused unjustified delays in bringing army units into Moscow. Now, even with top military command and control agencies blocked, the president will be able directly to issue orders to division commanders and to take over command and control.

An important stage in establishing control over the army will be the creation of a military policy directorate at Sergey Filatov's administration, which will assume functions similar to those of the CPSU Central Committee's department for administrative agencies. The new directorate's main objective will be to handpick command personnel from division commander upward, to test together with the president's Security Service their loyalty and readiness to carry out any order from the supreme commander in chief. Boris Yeltsin is no longer willing to let his fate repose in the hands of the Defense Ministry collegium at a critical hour. What little remains to be added to the above is that the full implementation of the above measures will effectively bring the chances of holding the next presidential elections (by the time set in the Constitution) to naught.

Defense Sector Debt 2.1 Trillion Rubles

LD1409203794 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1812 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—Moves by the Russian Government and Defence Ministry in August somewhat reduced the state debt to enterprises with defence orders, *ITAR-TASS* was told in the Defence Ministry's press and information department.

Nonetheless, the defence sector is owed 2.1 trillion roubles as allocations for weapons and military equipment acquisitions, and research and design grants envisioned by the previously passed law on "federal budget in 1994."

The Defence Ministry, Economics Ministry and National Defence Industry committee submitted to the government a 1994 programme for settlements with weapons and equipment producers, researchers and factories with defence orders.

Grachev Blames Government, Duma for Budget Cuts

MM1509091594 Moscow *KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian* 15 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by correspondent Nikolay Yefimovich: "Tighten Your Belts, Generals!"]

[Text] Nizhny Novgorod—We have already entered the country's inviolate strategic reserve, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said at a press conference in Nizhny Novgorod. And it is the government and State Duma that are to blame: They did not meet us halfway, they cut back the military budget. The Ministry of Finances determined, we do not understand how (and it did not show its calculations even to the Defense Ministry), a sum of 42 trillion rubles but according to Grachev this money is not enough even for the most essential items. Already the army is not paying anywhere for municipal services. Nor will it pay. If someone suddenly thinks to switch off lighting or water we shall act by different methods, the defense minister said in a strict warning to future "saboteurs."

The defense minister also refuted all the slanderers who are trying to compromise the good name of Matvey Burlakov, commander of the Western Group of Forces, who has not assumed the post of Grachev's deputy. Yes, there has been corruption, theft, and smuggling and illegal deals in the group of Russian troops in Germany, Pavel Sergeyevich admitted. Dozens of criminal cases have even been initiated. But the commander himself is not involved.

Grachev Voices Support for Gen Lebed

LD1509014694 Moscow *Mayak Radio Network in Russian* 1830 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] On 13 September a news conference was held in Nizhny Novgorod by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister. It was reported by the Slavyanka correspondent who attended it that journalists were interested in a wide range of problems, ranging from developing cooperation with NATO and the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border to corruption in the army. Nor did the journalists forget Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed. This is the reply of Pavel Grachev.

[Begin Grachev recording] General Lebed is a conscientious general, an officer who, on the order of the defense minister and the decision of the president and government, conscientiously carried out and is carrying out his mission in the Dniester Republic regarding the settlement of the conflict with the assistance of peacekeeping forces brought in to settle the conflict between the right and left bank. And, with the help of the 14th Army, he actually did manage to cope with his duty. And the fact that there is currently peace there is largely to the credit of General Lebed. As to his being summoned to Moscow, it is a separate army, it is subordinated directly to Moscow. Therefore he was summoned to deal with official tasks and will be summoned as many times as is necessary.

As far as cutbacks in the army are concerned, there is a plan for cutbacks in the 14th Army. General Lebed knows about it. General Lebed is making cuts in the army strictly in accordance with the plan. There can be no other way. This is the only way it is done in the army. [end recording]

Grachev: Border Troops Exercises 'Ordinary'

LD1509131494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has categorically denied a report that the Armed Forces are taking part in the strategic command and staff exercises "Vostok-94" being held from 10-17 September by the Russian Federal Border Service. Moreover, speaking to journalists, the defense minister called them ridiculous from the military point of view, explaining that border troops cannot hold strategic exercises by themselves. They can only take part in them. What the Federal Border Service is holding today, Grachev continued, are ordinary exercises in guarding Russia's borders.

Pay Differences in Military Highlighted

MM1409120994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94

[Article by Aleksandr Khokhlov: "Never Seen the Like: President Pays More to Those Who Love Him More"—from the "Delovoy Vtornik" section p1]

[Text] A strange situation has developed in Russia today regarding the salaries of staff in the power departments. It turns out there are military men and MILITARY men. Some officers carry out guard and patrol duty themselves nowadays and unload the coal because of a shortage of men; other, office-bound officers come to collect their pay packet with a shovel—it is easier to make money their way.

Incidentally, this is in accordance with regulations.

On 27 January 1993 the Russian Federation Council of Ministers—the government—issued decree No. 65 "On Regulating the Payment of Pay to Servicemen and Members of the Enlisted and Command Personnel of the Organs of Internal Affairs and Improving Their Social Protection." This decree brought the labor remuneration of Internal Affairs Ministry staff up to the level of officers of the Defense Ministry and the former Security Ministry. What is important is that the decree states that salaries in terms of position and rank, and supplementary payments for years in service will now be set in identical amounts for all the power structures.

The "Statutes on the Russian Federation Federal Counterintelligence Service," as confirmed by presidential edict of 5 January 1994, and the presidential edict "On Introducing Additions to the Statutes on the Federal Border Service—the Russian Federation Border Guard Troops Main Command," dated 25 April 1994, introduced payments for border guard troops and counterintelligence operatives who are entitled to a pension but continue in service and likewise for the staff of the Foreign Intelligence Service, the Internal Affairs Ministry Main Administration for Protection, and the tax police, with, a little later—27 May 1994—the same for

servicemen of the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency [FGCIA]. The benefits have been granted to everyone except officers of the Defense Ministry.

The upshot of the benefit is that a lieutenant colonel who has served 20 years or more in the FGCIA and earned pension entitlement does not leave but continues to serve. And why leave if 25 to 50 percent of this pension pours into your salary cheque as if from a "cash dispenser"? Army men do not have this. Many people, you will recall, were surprised that colonels from the General Staff were attracted in droves into the Border Guard Troops, counterintelligence, tax police....

And God be with them, the generals and the colonels. There are even more "drastic" benefits which affect all servicemen.

The "Statutes of the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency under the Russian Federation President" were confirmed by presidential edict of 27 May 1994. It is clearly because the FGCIA comes "under" him that its director has been given the right to establish additional payments for staff for "the difficulty and importance of the official duties being discharged" and "for high achievements in service"—ranging correspondingly from 25 to 50 percent of the salary of the position. Army captains in Tajikistan are no doubt idling away their time....

But this is just for starters. The FGCIA director can increase his subordinates' salaries even under such a strange "heading" as "for service in the FGCIA." So you simply have to carry on serving and you suddenly get the salary for the position increased up to 25 percent. Knowing where to serve counts!

As a result of implementing this presidential edict the pay of servicemen of the tactical echelon of the FGCIA is 1.5 times higher than the "pay packet" in the Army, while in the central apparatuses the ratio increases to 2.3 times.

Since the July pay rise an Army lieutenant receives—with all the "topups"—234,000 to 243,000 rubles [R], an army colonel (?R464,000 to 487,000). Multiply this by the ratio for the virtuosi of the Kremlin telephones....

But there are examples which are even more striking. Since the president's 8 July edict, counterintelligence operatives have also become dramatically better off. A chief of department in the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] now earns more than Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Staff.

Military men who are plain military men are muttering in their beards. There is no denying that counterintelligence operatives, border guards, and the staff of the Main Administration for Protection and the FGCIA perform very important state functions. But how do you explain to an Army lieutenant serving in a trouble spot

or a god-forsaken garrison the other side of Lake Baykal that the "courtiers" in Russia have always received more than Army lieutenants?

Unit Commander on Missile Dismantling Schedule

MM1409083594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Oleg Bedula: "Missiles Scrapped Monthly"]

[Text] Izhevsk—According to Colonel Aleksey Zhvanko, commander of Strategic Missile Forces unit X, his "operation" is scrapping six obsolete strategic missiles a month. It is planned to dismantle 10-12 missiles a month in the future.

These terrible weapons are being brought here not only from Russia, but also from Ukraine and Belorussia [Belarus]. Each missile contains no less than 16 tonnes of nonferrous metals and a considerable quantity of jewels. An agreement on processing the waste was recently reached with Izhevsk's "Aksion" enterprise.

Commentary Views Russian Arms Sales

LD1409232494 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] In recent years many international buyers, formerly unfamiliar with Russian-made weaponry, have been increasingly turning to Russia for their defense hardware supplies. Our observer Vladislav Kozyakov comments:

A few days ago, when Russian and South African foreign ministers were talking in Moscow, an announcement was made public of both countries' intention to expand their links in the field of defense technology. Among other things, South Africa is pushing for a deal to replace the engines of its aging Mirage fleet with those mounted by Russians on their MiG's.

Coming hard on the heels was the news of Brazil's efforts to procure a several hundred million dollar-worth of Russian-made armor. Still further, Moscow and Seoul agreed last week to offset part of Russia's \$1 billion debt to South Korea with Russian-produced defense items, including tanks, armored personnel carriers, anti-aircraft missiles, and miscellaneous defense equipment.

These very days negotiations are being held in Moscow with a visiting Malaysian top brass delegation headed by General Ismail ~~Abdullah~~, the army commander-in-chief. Coming under discussion are major trade deals to beef up Malaysia's ground forces with Russian-made armor, artillery pieces, and anti-aircraft missile systems. All that comes on top of the three month-old contract to augment the nation's Air Force by 18 MiG-29 fighter jets with a bunch price tag [as heard] of US\$550 million.

Joining the queue of those anxious to draw on Russia's arsenals are now Turkey, Kuwait, and many other countries formerly totally dependent on the United States, Britain, and France for their defense supplies.

The buyers who obstinately deleted Moscow off their shopping maps are now getting used to defense cooperation with Russia. With the international climate radically changed, with hostile blocs no longer in existence, with Russia increasingly recognized as an agreeable partner, it is quality and other competitive dimensions that come to the fore. And it is exactly in this respect that Russian designers and arms producers are second to none.

Expert reports from recently held international exhibitions and air shows appear to hold Russian weaponry in very high esteem, with certain items considered exquisite. In Farnborough this year, Russia featured its latest Su-35 fighter bomber. A bit later, the London based DAILY TELEGRAPH quoted Western defense experts as dubbing it the best fighter plane in the world.

The high quality of Russian-made arms is now attracting those who until recently were denied access to Russia's defense produce. With freedom of trade and competitive pressures in their proper places, the buying side is the chooser.

MiG-33 Praised at Farnborough Show

MK1509080094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Olga Rubnikovich under the "Air Exhibition" rubric: "Everyone in Britain Was Amazed by MiG-33. Russian Weapons Are Still Popular"]

[Text] The "Rosvooruzheniye" state company held a briefing yesterday on the results of the international exhibition Farnborough-94, which ended in Britain. Russia was represented at the prestigious show of aviation and space technologies virtually by all its key aircraft building companies and design bureaus.

According to Viktor Samoylov, general director of "Rosvooruzheniye," the military equipment offered by Western manufacturers on the world market is suiting consumers less and less. Russian specialists do not conceal the fact that this situation plays into the hands of domestic military hardware manufacturers, who should capitalize on it to the full extent.

Lieutenant General Samoylov said that no one, except for Russia, showed anything completely new at Farnborough-94. Particularly disappointing were the Americans, who exhibited the standard F-16's off the production line. Moreover, only Russian pilots ventured to perform exhibition flights with full combat load in the British sky. The public and specialists were mostly impressed by the multipurpose MiG-33, which is seen by many as unrivaled in the world.

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On the whole, Mr. Samoylov noted, the level of Farnborough exhibitions is in decline, people's interest is fading, nor are there many potential buyers. Most foreign manufacturers are striving to obtain Russian technologies, which, undoubtedly, says a lot.

The main, including potential, importers of Russian weapons are countries of the Near and Middle East, India, China, Southeast Asian states (Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia) and also a number of African and Latin American countries. The Russian side's relations with some partners who displayed interest in buying finished products are far from cozy. Many are eager to take Russian aircraft, helicopters, and other weapons without thinking twice, but often it turns out that they have no money to pay.

Avis Aviation Works Declares Bankruptcy

LD1509092294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0605 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Avis, formerly the Samara Aviation Works, which manufactured the Tu-95 long-range bomber, had extended until 19 September the enforced leave of all their staff—which started on 15 July—and has declared itself bankrupt. The works' chief engineer Vladimir Safronov said that the Tu-154, which the enterprise manufactures, is failing to find a market and this is preventing it from paying off an enormous debt. Safronov preferred not to divulge the number of unsold planes or the size of the debt.

Rumors of Tula Weapons Plant Closure Denied

LD1509084394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0605 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The news that the Tula weapons works has stopped operating is untrue, said the enterprise's general director, Nikolay Maslennikov. He said that the works is continuing to operate with some cuts to the workforce caused by arrears by state structures for goods delivered. The state's debt to the weapons makers is approximately 15 billion rubles.

Policy on Disposing Nuclear Ships 'Strange'

MM1509090194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Vladimir Maryukha: "Obsolete Nuclear Vessels Leave Us No Choice—Either We Bury Them or They Will Bury Us"]

[Text] A great power's works are truly wondrous when, in plain sight of all, the boil of global catastrophe is swelling yet its leaders plan not to operate but to prepare to eliminate the consequences of the "ulcer." What are we talking about? About the recycling of decommissioned naval vessels with nuclear power plants. There are already hundreds of them, and they will be joined by at least another 150 by the year 2000.

Japan is sounding the alarm, claiming that the Russians are contaminating the oceans with liquid radioactive waste. The whole world is alarmed about whether a slice of the nuclear pie "baked" during the years of East-West confrontation will be stolen in Russia and produce a major scandal. And we are alarmed by everything. And only the Russian Navy is for some reason dragging around its neck the burden of having to bury obsolete nuclear submarine reactors.

Judging by the adopted government decisions and decrees (papers on the subject emerge at least once a year) the recycling of nuclear submarines could hardly be going any better. But we need only touch on the question of money and the funding of elaborated and ratified state programs for the obvious truth to emerge—the state can be said to have given up on this problem. And here is the proof.

According to Vice Admiral Viktor Topilin, chief of the Navy's Main Technical Directorate, breaking up a single nuclear vessel costs more than 5 billion rubles [R]. This work is funded not by the state budget—the funds are being found by cutting expenditure on maintaining the combat readiness of the Navy's ships. For its part, the Navy's budget has already been cut to the bone, and the crumbs that have been found will not solve the problem. Given the number of decommissioned nuclear submarines, we will have to think not so much about breaking them up as about maintaining their radiation safety. As a result, the already sluggish pace of recycling is being held up still further.

The leadership of the Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters has offered to help break this vicious circle—they are very well aware of what the elimination of the consequences of an accident on a decommissioned nuclear vessel could lead to. One way or another, the "emergency" ministry is prepared to "lend" the Navy R10 billion. But but the Finance Ministry dug its heels in—the government has a separate budget line-item for recycling, it said. And the financiers did not take account of the fact that the Navy will not receive any money under this item at least until the year's end—this is not the same item under which the vast Russian apparatus of civil servants is being paid every month day after day.

It turns out that the government is against redistributing budget funds but, at the same time, it does not intend to release the previously ratified sums for the recycling of nuclear submarines. If two or three decommissioned nuclear vessels were to sink (God preserve us), then the money would be found—if only the same old R10 billion, but it would be being used to eliminate the consequences of an accident that could have been avoided. Clearly, this strange approach, to put it mildly, is also halting Western aid to help Russia solve this problem. The United States, for instance, is ready to provide an \$80 million loan, but only by bypassing government structures—through commercial organizations which will subsequently repay their debts in the

form of metal from the decommissioned ships. To this end it is now important to stop selling this metal at knockdown prices—something which has literally left the world ferrous metals market in a state of shock. But scrap—the only unexported asset we have left—continues to be moved out of Russia without any controls. And resourceful businessmen are getting the “green light” for this in the same corridors of power which are “failing to notice” the threat of a radiation accident.

The government has not heeded the complaints from the Pacific Fleet, even though there are two tankers full of liquid radioactive waste near to the entire Maritime Kray region. As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported, the naval forces have gotten by—80 tonnes of waste have been processed by an experimental installation brought to the Far East by Hero of the Soviet Union Captain First Class V. Bulygin and company. The same Bulygin who previously saved Lake Ladoga from radioactive contamination. But liquid radioactive waste is only half the story. We need to recycle solid waste formed during the processing of liquid radioactive waste, to “bury” reactors, and to remove decommissioned nuclear submarine reactor cores (this work has been carried out on just 42 nuclear vessels). Just one special train which transports reactor cores from Paldiski to the classified city of Chelyabinsk will cost the Navy R2 billion. After all, forgive me, but it was not the Navy that decided to dismantle the unique nuclear submarine training center in Estonia.

Basically, if Russia's overall problems are to be solved, it will not be by the military nor at their expense. Admittedly, given our poverty, we can agree that state programs within the global security framework will be resolved by sailors, missile troops, and other military specialists on an equal footing with the state. But the civilized world has already long since worked out the following system—the Navy, for instance, receives a ship from industry, uses it to protect state interests for its service life, and then returns it to industry.

Regional Affairs

Chechen Minister Reports Attack on TV Tower

LD1509105994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The situation in Chechnya remains tense and contradictory. On the one hand there is still a kind of shaky equilibrium, and on the other reports are coming in about a stepping up of activities by the anti-Dudayev opposition. Our correspondent Vladimir Myshnev linked up by telephone with Movladi Udugov, the Chechen minister of information and the press. This is what the latter said, among other things:

[Begin Udugov recording] The situation at the moment is stable and there are no hostilities on Chechen territory. However, yesterday, an act of terrorism was carried out on a television tower. Two broadcasting centers were

destroyed and considerable damage was done to the building. Rebuilding work is now underway, but yesterday and from early this morning the first and second television programs are off the air. By this evening the program on the first channel and local television will be on again. It has already been established that magnetic mines were used and people have been detained in this regard.

Yesterday, a conference of the law-enforcement bodies was held at the procuracy office. First reports, according to the procurator general, indicate that the threads in this act of terrorism lead to Khasbulatov. [end recording]

Khasbulatov Comments on Chechen Situation

MM1509081794 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 1, 3

[Interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov by Zhanna Kasyanenko; in Tolstoy-Yurt, date not stated: “Chechen Test Range—Conversation With Ruslan Khasbulatov in the Village of Tolstoy-Yurt”]

[Excerpts] Tolstoy-Yurt—[passage omitted]

[Kasyanenko] What is your forecast of the situation?

[Khasbulatov] I am an optimist. Nevertheless, I believe that we will succeed in resolving this problem very soon. The Dudayev regime is rotten, and everything could collapse at any moment, even now while we are sitting here. Then again, it may be a matter of weeks. But no more. The only thing which I fear is that Russian troops may be brought into this region nevertheless.... There have been enough deaths even among just one people. Those guys who would come here—why should they risk their lives? For the sake of getting rid of one individual? Of course, I do not refuse aid, but it must be proffered via the support of the people. If troops are brought in, there will be corpses on both sides. This will bring with it great disorder for many years to come. Why?

As yet, aid is being offered in a third-rate manner. Even in our village, people are collecting money themselves to buy weapons. And, you know, aid is not even the right word. After all, what it is is the republic's budget funds, which were honestly gained in their time. It was never envisaged as a grant [dotatsionnyy], and it played a significant role in the industrial potential of the entire country. We are entitled to count on aid from the Federation, of course, and not only in the form of tanks and aircraft. I hope that they will not actually be needed. But aid is required in the matter of reviving science, culture, the health sector, and the entire social infrastructure. [passage omitted]

[Kasyanenko] Chechnya is a small republic, but it seems to me that many of Russia's interests are focused in it.

[Khasbulatov] Since the time of my arrival, I, to be frank, have been trying not to get dragged into Moscow's affairs, nor even to mention the names of the Moscow

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leaders. But correspondents are coming here, making their way by hook or by crook, and apparently on my behalf they are printing all kinds of words about Moscow's leaders. In particular, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA and SEGODNYA distressed me greatly. You can see why I am so cautious—I am simply proceeding from my own experience, I take account of my own pretty complex position in Russian politics, I try not to create unnecessary artificial problems for the little Chechen Republic, and I do not utter any kind of opinionated statements.

But you are right, of course—here, to a certain extent, the interests of what are by no means rank-and-file states are focused. Two trends in Russian policy on Chechnya are in fierce battle with one another—conventionally, as one is wont to say, the stance of the hawk, and the stance of the dove. But nevertheless, under the pressure of public opinion and the demands of real life, the Kremlin was forced to recognize the Dudayev regime as unlawful. It became clear to them that the Dudayev era is coming to an end. It seems to me that they were very quick to make efforts to recognize the Interim Council and very quick to try to line up a minion in place of Dudayev. And I have no doubt that Dudayev was the secret minion of the Kremlin, and that he was in many ways linked with Moscow and with specific services. I can say this precisely—after all, I was chairman of the Supreme Soviet and, of course, I knew what went on here. And I knew about the weapons deliveries effected by certain circles. And not only weapons, but several of those kinds of things which it is not done to talk of aloud. Many delicate operations were carried out via this regime. But now, so to speak, it has served its purpose. And it must go. It has done its bit, and Moscow will try to get rid of it. From the point of view of the interests of the state, the conclusion that it is necessary to renounce Dudayev was, in my view, right. This is an objective necessity.

But here a subjective factor comes into effect. You know that much in Russian politics can be explained not by the interests of the state and the people, but by subjectivity. And it is here that the hawk-like stance very quickly began to emerge in, say, the assertions that it might be necessary to recognize Dudayev as recognition of the Interim Council signifies that the opposition will come to power, that Khasbulatov will be victorious, that he will join the Federation Council, and so on. This is an absurd picture—they themselves are creating a paper tiger are frightening themselves with it, unconcerned for the truth and not representing the real individual. They will never get one simple thing into their heads—that I have come at the behest of a weary people, fulfilling my duty of honor and conscience. Obviously, concepts such as honor and conscience are beyond their grasp. So they begin to invent things: We know what Khasbulatov's intentions are—he will wreak revenge upon Yeltsin, and so on. To be honest, these names do not even enter my head when I am working here day and night.

[Kasyanenko] Unfortunately, although aid is officially going to the Interim Council, there are attempts by

certain of the oldest forces to flirt with Dudayev and to watch on the quiet: Will they back this old horse? But this is all in the past, because people will not tolerate backtracking. In Moscow, there is a total misunderstanding of what is going on here.

[Khasbulatov] Instead of, say, evaluating my stance and the fact that I never was a separatist, persecution and disinformation is in progress. But I, you know, was always devoted to democratic views, and on the pages of our newspaper—and I am thinking here of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA—I wrote about the social protection of the population and about the development of democracy back in the 1970's and 1980's. I have always adhered to these ideas. Which is also why the people express their support in this direction, because they know that we will be able to negotiate on a nonconflict basis with the whole of Russia, without threats of terrorist acts and explosions at nuclear power stations.... People believe in sensible judgments. And so I think: Why is it that such stances are not appraised? No, they try to construct a policy based on subjective petty interests, neglecting the people's interests.

[Kasyanenko] Does it not seem to you that Chechnya is a mini test range, a sort of conflict laboratory where Russian items are sent for approval, and the limit of the people's patience is tested, along with its reaction to various actions by the powers? Let's begin if only from the fact that last summer the representative organ of power of the city of Grozny was disbanded, after which in point of fact a dictatorship was established, there was unrestrained growth in the impoverishment of one part of the population and the enrichment of the other, and so on.... People are putting up with everything, but will there be a limit?

[Khasbulatov] Yes, parliament was dissolved by guns. And this is obviously deemed a "successful experiment" which the Kremlin made use of when shooting upon our Russian parliament. But in my view, the limit has been reached. In practice, I have met with the entire population of the republic at rallies twice over. And you know, I can speak for them. This is the limit. Women are reproaching their husbands and sons: If you do not want to drive out this Dudayev, then we will go for him. And I, too, think that if the women take up arms they will fight to the end—this is indeed an invincible force.

I analyzed the situation thoroughly at the end of 1991, and I came to the conclusion that much of what was done here by Dudayev was actively exploited by the Kremlin. Even in respect of me, they are acting together—there are forged video tapes discrediting me and handed over to the Dudayev propaganda machine from Moscow by people known only too well to us all. You know, they are now undertaking to discredit me here in the same way that they discredited me in Moscow. It is the same pen, it is the same handwriting.

Pay attention to the hypocrisy of the Dudayev gang. They accuse me of having been sent from Moscow—I,

who was destroyed by tanks and thrown into prison. But at the same time, Dudayev himself enjoys military and ideological aid via officials [sovetniki] thanks to petroleum products and huge bribes. So it is, of course, that the Dudayev regime is genetically linked with the Kremlin regime. They are, of course, twin brothers. But here it can be said that an elder brother, younger brother relationship is operating. I, of course, will tell all eventually. But I am stunned that people can be so gullible that they do not see all these little intrigues. Now the majority realizes this only too well...

[Kasyanenko] I sincerely hope that Chechnya will soon cease to be a test range where the technology of conflicts is being developed, along with experiments on its own people, and that your experience in peacemaking, unifying the nation, and fighting for democracy will be sought by Russia.

Gantamirov Appointed Head of Opposition Forces

LD1409144194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1314 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—By decision of the Chechnya Provisional Council, the leadership of the opposition joint armed forces has been conferred on Bislan Gantamirov, who has so far headed one of the most powerful groupings of the opposition. ITAR-TASS was informed of this today at the Provisional Council's press service.

So far, the 32-year-old Bislan Gantamirov, former mayor of the city of Grozny, has headed a detachment about 800-strong, and controlled the Urus-Martan Rayon Center.

Sources in the Chechnya Provisional Council assess this decision as a realistic step toward the unification of all opposition forces which aim to overthrow Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime.

The Provisional Council's press service claims that the bridge over the River Terek near the village of Chervlennoye which was taken Tuesday by the opposition forces is now under the control of the opposition. [sentence as received]

According to the press service's information, during the armed clashes two persons from Dzhokhar Dudayev's forces who were guarding the bridge were killed and six were taken prisoner. In addition, it is reported that five grenade launchers, three machineguns, and one tank were captured.

According to the information of the Provisional Council obtained by ITAR-TASS, in Chechnya's Gudermesskiy rayon there has been a sharp increase in the number of cholera patients, but the Provisional Council does not have more detailed information on this.

Deputy Urges De Facto Recognition of Dudayev

LD1409154194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Russian Duma deputy (Russia's Choice faction), Anatoliy Shabad believes that it is foolish to speak about reconciliation between the official Grozny and the Chechen opposition.

Shabad, who recently returned from Chechnya, told Interfax on Wednesday that the only way to normalize the situation in the republic is to give up military interference into Chechen domestic problems and recognize de-facto the Chechen leadership and try to cooperate with it constructively so as to create in the republic normal economic and political mechanisms.

Resistance to a bad regime does not make it better, said the deputy.

He believes that Moscow's decision to support the opposition Provisional Council in Chechnya was based on "unreliable information about the distribution of political sympathies in the republic." At the same time, according to Shabad, Ruslan Khasbulatov was actively intervening in developments in Chechnya.

"I believe that they are staking on Ruslan Khasbulatov as evidenced from my meetings with leaders and rank-and-file members of the opposition," he said.

Shabad believes that certain signs indicate that the Russian side has killed plans to use the opposition for its own purposes because it lacks political prospects.

"Initially the Federal Counterintelligence Service created illegal armed units in Chechnya believing they could help it overthrow the Chechen leadership," said Shabad. "This, however, would lead to more crimes and destabilize the situation in Chechnya."

"There is no political opposition, as such, in Chechnya," said Shabad.

N. Ossetian Official Comments on Chechnya

LD1309153194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1414 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Chairman of North Ossetian Parliament Yuriy Biragov told Interfax on Tuesday that the position of North Ossetia towards Chechnya remains the same and that North Ossetia will not interfere in Chechnya's internal affairs. He said he believes that the Chechen people must decide its future for itself through the free expression of their will at a referendum monitored by independent observers. He said that any attempts to interfere into the crisis in Chechnya from outside would be counterproductive.

A well-informed source in Vladikavkaz told Interfax that the North Ossetian leaders categorically deny statements

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about North Ossetia helping the Chechen Provisional Council via the Mozdok border region, carried by some media.

The same source confirmed that a certain quantity of military equipment had been transferred to the Provisional Council via the Mozdok Region of North Ossetia. However, Vladikavkaz has no information on the amount, technical characteristics or origins of these arms.

Veterans Oppose Sending Volunteers to Chechnya

LD1409195394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1709 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kipkeyev]

[Text] Nalchik September 14 TASS—The Union of Armed Forces Veterans of the Kabardian-Balkarian Republic, Russian North Caucasus, spoke against recruitment of "volunteers" for sending them in Chechnya. The statement circulated by the union says "the Chechen people will choose its fate itself and restore order in its home."

The veterans union expressed support to the Russian leadership's policy of heading off military interference in Chechnya's developments.

"We are sure that the president and the government of Kabardino-Balkaria, the republic with a great authority for the North Caucasian peoples, will take a firm position and do everything possible to make the fratricidal war in the Chechen Republic stop," the statement says.

Duma Deputy Views Law on Kaliningrad Status

WS1309143094 Kaliningrad STRAZH BALTIKI in Russian 6 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Colonel of Legal Service Yuriy Voyevoda, Russian Duma deputy, by V. Nuyakshev; place and date not given: "Russia Needs Our Oblast"]

[Excerpts] [Voyevoda] Yes, Russia needs a "healthy," that is prosperous Kaliningrad Oblast, just like I and my electors do. This aim is pursued by the law on protecting the Russian Federation's sovereignty on the territory of Kaliningrad Oblast. I have paid close attention to this law ever since my previous visit to Kaliningrad.

[Nuyakshev] How advanced is the process of drafting this indubitably important bill?

[Voyevoda] I will present the Federation Council with the draft law on 15 October and suggest that it is submitted for a first reading. So far, the document has been sent to those ministries and departments whose standpoint is relevant to us. The aim of this move is to receive recommendations and suggestions regarding the provisions of the law, which touch upon the interests of those ministries and departments. As of today, I have received 15 responses. All the reservations made by

those bodies have one thing in common—the bureaucrats occupying offices in central organizations are unwilling to realize that we are not trying to pass some legally binding ordinance regulating federal laws with regard to Kaliningrad Oblast.

In particular, the management of the Customs Committee believes that the law should be in line with the Customs Code. However, the aim of the law is to establish, in light of our oblast's specific situation, a special *modus operandi*, so that the restrictions imposed by the Customs Code do not hamper our oblast's barter with other Russian regions and foreign states.

The authors of these reservations do not realize that we are going to pass a federal law, which will stand above the parochial interests of various departments and will bring the oblast's interests in line with the interests of the Russian Federation. The aim is to make our oblast unsubsidized. Moreover, within two or three years we may create conditions, under which the oblast will reap profits for Russia and help lift the state from the current bitter economic crisis.

However, I believe that ministries and departments will not have any significant influence on the adoption of the law by the State Duma.

[Nuyakshev] However, the adoption of the law will depend on the political forces represented in the Duma, and these are quite motley.

[Voyevoda] Of course. Do you remember how much criticism for the law has been expressed by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy? However, our further working contacts with Vladimir Volfovich showed that he had received insufficient or distorted information. He has changed his standpoint, and I have serious grounds to believe that there will be no opposition on the part of Zhirinovskiy and his supporters.

The factions "Russia's Choice" and "Regional Policy" support the bill.

Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov has spoken about a caring attitude toward territories like Kaliningrad Oblast. I hope we will reach an understanding.

According to the regulations, the first reading of the law will be heard by the State Duma on 18-20 October.

[Nuyakshev] You are a military man and our readers know that you have been persistently upholding the interests of the people in uniform. What have you been busy with recently?

[Voyevoda] I have been preoccupied with two problems. We have discussed the first one, connected with the law on the status of the oblast. The other sphere includes everything related to the servicemen's routine problems and the protection of their legal rights and interests.

I continue to monitor the issue of the allocation and use of funds for housing. In particular, I have sent motions to

the Ministry of Finance, the Defense Ministry, and Deputy Prime Minister V. Yarov, requesting explanations about the procedure for using hard currency funds allocated by Western states to finance the construction of houses and retraining of servicemen redeployed to Russia from the Baltic states.

So far, we have received a response from the Ministry of Finance, saying that in line with intergovernment agreements, transfer of hard currency funds is carried out by Western banks directly to the organizations and companies conducting the construction. The Ministry of Finance does not participate in the aforementioned operations and does not control the use of those funds.

As you see, the response is not very comforting. I will wait until other responses arrive, and will then continue to investigate where the moneys are getting lost.

I simultaneously have been monitoring the problem of the utilization of ammunition in the Baltic Fleet. This is a very pressing problem for our oblast, which is literally stuffed with ammunition.

I would like to point out that a special rail-mounted technological line for waste-free processing of ammunition will arrive in the oblast in October. The process of utilizing the ammunition will be absolutely ecologically safe, and a product, for which there is a great demand in the West, will be produced. I would like to emphasize that there will be many new jobs on the processing line, where retired officers or those dismissed as a result of reductions will be able to apply their expertise. [passage omitted]

I would like to point out that people in the government and the in Presidential Administration treat with understanding the problems of the military and experience a feeling of guilt. I am sure that they will take the servicemen's side.

If any conflicts emerge, they should be resolved in a civilized manner, according to the law.

[Nuyakshev] However in reality, things often look differently.

[Voyevoda] Answering your question, I would like to say that a number of articles have been published in the Moscow press recently, devoted to the criminal activities of the principal military financial body headed by General Vorobyev. Incidentally, the shadow of these activities falls on Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

This causes concern to the government, particularly Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. There are rumors—and they are grounded—that after Grachev's return from vacation serious measures will be taken regarding personnel policy. I cannot say what these measures will amount to, given that the decision rests with the president and the government.

I hope that in any case the decision will be made in the interests of the Armed Forces and every individual serviceman. So to speak, hopes die last.

Kaliningrad Chiefs Mull Budget Options

*MK1409122094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
14 Sep 94 p 2*

[Report by Aleksandr Khikhlya from Kaliningrad under the "Practice" rubric: "Kaliningrad Does Not Fit In With Economy Ministry's Calculations. Oblast's Representatives To Go to Moscow To Ask for 230 Billion Rubles"]

[Text] The Kaliningrad Oblast Duma has not passed the 1994 budget in second reading, seeing the region's realistically possible revenues and the minimally requisite expenditures as too unbalanced. A special commission made up of deputies, representatives of the administration, and local authorities concluded that the consolidated budget's revenues forecast according to the Economy Ministry's methodologies and indicative figures are overvalued by nearly 60 million rubles [R]. The reason is that the oblast's economy is shrinking faster than the country's average.

The deputies ruled that to finance the social and consumer sector this coming fall and winter alone an extra R170 billion would be required on top of the estimates proposed by the administration. The "gap" in the budget has thus widened to R230 billion, which can only be obtained from federal sources, for which purpose an oblast delegation is preparing to leave for Moscow.

The "delegates," anticipating a failure of their Moscow mission, contemplate adopting the "Perm method" of budget blackmail by withdrawing the oblast's signature from federal documents; they are also mulling tactics employed by Russian leaders during the USSR's breakup, when the republic demanded that the center immediately introduce a one-channel tax system.

Grachev Inspects Voronezh Military Housing

LD1409061894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0545 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Starukhin]

[Text] Voronezh, 14 Sep—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who arrived today in Voronezh, will acquaint himself with the progress being made in building housing for officers' families. He left the aerodrome by helicopter immediately, flying to Boguchar, where one of the divisions withdrawn from Germany is deployed. The minister intends to acquaint himself with the accommodation and billeting of the units and the financing of housing for officers' families and military settlements.

Further on Grachev Tour

*MK1509110094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
15 Sep 94 p 3*

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer under the "Power" rubric: "They Love the Army in the Province. Governors Are Interested in Military Bases"]

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[Text] This week General Grachev, who is making a working tour of Moscow Military District units, never tired of wondering in public how well the Army is being treated by local population.

The Army, however, has long noticed the change in sentiments of local administration chiefs. The conflict with the Saratov authorities in the summer of 1993, when the 104th Airborne Division, withdrawn from Gyandzha (Azerbaijan) was deployed in the oblast, seems to have been the last such incident. In 1994, local authorities in central Russia and in the North Caucasus agree enthusiastically to the deployment of extra units and tend to be displeased when old bases are being closed down.

The Army injects into the regions money from the defense budget and creates new jobs. The construction of military installations and camps for officers and soldiers provide employment to the local construction industry, which is currently suffering from a severe depression all over Russia owing to a lack of orders. However, military camps for the troops withdrawn from Germany are being built with German money by foreign construction companies, but they, too, hire local workers, retain local firms as subcontractors, and buy local building materials.

In Nizhny Novgorod Oblast, two barracks areas financed with German money (DM250 million) are under construction for officers of the 47th Guards Tank Division and the 34th Artillery Division, which were withdrawn from Germany this fall. Evidently, a considerable share of the DM250 million will end up in Nizhny Novgorod, and not only in the form of residential houses.

In addition, the already built military installations provide jobs for civilians, and local residents without permanent employment increasingly often sign contracts for service in nearby military units. Presently, officers' pay is much greater than the Russian province's average. Hence, the deployment of troops creates stable effective demand, boosts trade, and so forth.

Soldiers can also be used as a disciplined and virtually unpaid work force in agricultural and other work. But this is not the whole thing. At this uneasy time every governor would like to have troops friendly disposed toward the local authorities deployed in his oblast. Provincial heads have not forgotten the October events in Moscow.

Yet, most local chiefs have come from the former management and party nomenklatura, so they are trying to forge contacts with generals the old Soviet way—in the bathhouse, during hunting or fishing trips, or simply at a dinner table. Not so Boris Nemtsov, a new-wave politician, whom Boris Yeltsin has recently recognized as his possible successor.

During City Day festivities 11 September, the 47th Tank Division paraded along Nizhny Novgorod streets. At

Gen. Grachev's meeting with division officers, the governor said that "this is a valiant, combat-ready unit, which should be an example for the entire Army." Boris Nemtsov also said that the current defense budget would be sufficient for the Armed Forces if the number of generals is cut drastically and if capable officers are given good career opportunities. Generals who attended the meeting frowned in indignation, of course, and Gen. Grachev had to make an explanation as to why the Armed Forces need a large budget. But some officers privately remarked that "maybe Boris Nemtsov is right in some respects." It seems that a young politician has emerged in Russia who can possibly "come to terms" with the Armed Forces.

Rybkin Meets Central Chernozem Oblasts Heads

MM1309124794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Sep 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "On a Frank Note"]

[Text] An important event during State Duma Chairman I. Rybkin's trip to Voronezh was his meeting with the leadership and chairmen of the standing committees and commissions of oblast legislative organs in the Central Chernozem Region. During the meeting the State Duma chairman summed up the results of the spring session of the lower house of parliament and talked about the plans for the Duma's activity in the fall session that is beginning.

The State Duma chairman took part in a "Chernozemye" Economic Cooperation Association Board session devoted to the problems of the regional economic association's activity and its collaboration with federal organs of power. Representatives of Belgorod, Voronezh, Kursk, Lipetsk, Orel, and Tambov Oblasts attended the meeting.

The oblast representatives talked about the problems facing agricultural producers in the Central Chernozem Region.

During the meetings and talks, which were frank in nature, the question of the possible postponement of Federal Assembly elections to coincide with the presidential elections was raised.

37 Spies Uncovered in N. Novgorod

MM1309162794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Report from ITAR-TASS, POSTFACTUM, and PRAVDA column under the "In Brief" rubric: "Federal Counterintelligence Service Working Indefatigably"]

[Text] Thirty-seven intelligence staffers of foreign states and over 20 of their accomplices have been detected on the territory of Nizhny Novgorod Oblast by the local Federal Counterintelligence Service directorate in the three years since the region was opened up to foreigners.

The defense industry, the sites of military units, and other military secrets are of most interest to foreign special services.

Khavvuta Gas Field May 'Eclipse' Yamburg Deposit

MM0709103194 Moscow *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA* in Russian 6 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Alim Lysyuk under the "Inform-Contact" rubric: "The North Will Warm Moscow"]

[Text] A new deposit—the Khavvuta field—is promising to eclipse the fame of the celebrated Yamburg field. It is

like a puff-paste pie: gas at a depth of 1,500 meters, gas condensate lower down, and, finally, oil on the third layer.

The first of 204 planned wells has been bored.

"To obtain the blue fuel, two gas fields with a total capacity of 330 billion cubic meters of fuel a year will be constructed," A. Usenko, chief of Nadym Gas Extraction Administration, said. "The gas being extracted will be enough to meet the needs of a city with Moscow's population and of five or six densely populated oblasts. The first comprehensive gas-preparation installation will be commissioned in 1995."

International Affairs

Belarus President Cancels Meeting Due To Ill Health

LD1409133894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev—The meeting between Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma and the president of Belarus, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, planned for 14 September has been postponed because the latter is ill, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry told a UNIAN correspondent.

With regard to bilateral relations between Ukraine and Belarus, Volodymyr Zheliba, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Belarus, noted that in the last few days, in accordance with a resolution by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, a Ukrainian-Belarus commission on trade and economic cooperation has begun its work. Leonid Kolisnichenko, the deputy minister for machine-building, the military industrial complex, and conversion has been appointed to lead the commission. It was also stressed that Ukraine is Belarus's second trading partner after Russia, supplying about 150 types of goods.

Another reason for developing bilateral cooperation is that approximately 440,000 Belarusians live in Ukraine and around 300,000 Ukrainians live in the Republic of Belarus.

Russia Imposes Sanctions on Natural Gas Supplies

LD1409221194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1450 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev—Russia's Gazprom joint stock company at 0300 GMT hours on 14 September halved the pressure in the gas supply line to Shebelinka. A Gazprom telegram warned that pressure in two lines was to be reduced in the next few hours. The daily supply of gas by the end of the day is to be cut by 50 percent to as little as 100 million cubic meters of gas.

The reason for the Russian sanctions is a by now customary failure to settle the debt for the gas supplied and the disruption of the [debt repayment] schedule agreed at the negotiations between Russia's Gazprom and a Ukrainian government delegation on 16-17 August of this year.

Interviewed by UNIAN, a Gazprom representative said that the debt repayment schedule was adhered to by Ukraine by less than 10 percent, while no current payments were being made at all.

A UNIAN correspondent was told at Ukhazprom that beginning the repayment of the debt was made impossible by debtors in Ukraine, with the internal debt at present standing at 14 trillion [figure as received] karbovantsi. In debt were mainly Ukraine's MinProm [Industry Ministry] and MinMashProm [Machine

Building Ministry] enterprises that owe Ukhazprom middlemen 195 million dollars. The debt of Ukrainian enterprises to Russia's Gazprom is rising daily by 10 million dollars.

In view of this situation, Ukhazprom has warned that the debtors on 13 September are to reduce the consumption of gas by a half. Ukhazprom is also halting the pumping of gas into underground storage, which will affect the consumer in the winter rather than right now.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Praesidium at its sitting tomorrow is primarily to address the crisis of nonpayments for natural gas.

'Ukrayina' Appeals in Defense of Chechnya

AU1509101494 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No 35 (166) Sep 1994

[Undated "Statement by the Democratic Association 'Ukrayina' on the Events in the Chechen Republic" signed by M. Korobko, deputy chairman of the Democratic Association]

[Text] For three years, the Chechen people in the Caucasus Mountains have been defending their freedom and independence with courage and self-sacrifice. The military, political, and economic blackmail and threats on the part of Moscow have failed to break the Chechens' striving to create and strengthen their own state. The provocations and intrigues by the Russian empire against the Chechen people and their leader President Dzhokhar Dudayev have recently acquired enormous dimensions and cynicism. It is noteworthy that the imperial policy in Chechnya follows the same habitual pattern as in Georgia, the Dniester Region, and Tajikistan. The young Chechen state is under the threat of losing its independence.

By failing to support Chechen independence, we Ukrainians show disregard for our own independence and undermine the fate of the national democracies on the territory of the former USSR. We declare our decisive protest against Moscow's attempts to suppress the Chechen people's natural striving to live in freedom and independence.

We appeal to Ukraine's president, Supreme Council, Cabinet of Ministers, political parties, and public organizations, as well as to all people of good will with a proposal to take all peaceful decisive measures in order to protect the Chechen people from the encroachments of the new Moscow empire.

[Signed] M. Korobko, deputy chairman of the "Ukrayina" Democratic Association

World Bank Promises Annual Loans

LD1409190694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1536 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev September 14 TASS—The World Bank's chief executive officer Eveline Herfkens, who met Ukraine's parliament chairman Oleksandr Moroz on Wednesday, announced that the World Bank was ready to assist the Ukrainian economy with annual 800,000 million-dollar [as received] credits.

She stressed, however, that the aid was conditioned on the following: The Ukrainian Government must state its willingness to accept the loans and ensure their targeted use to promote economic reforms in the republic.

The World Bank's money, Herfkens said, is intended to secure resolute steps forward in economic reforms. However, Ukraine, a nation with great potential, should not expect constant currency injections from the world community but should rely primarily on its own strength in restoring order at home. With this in mind, the Ukrainian parliament could do much both in the legislative area and in budget forming.

Oleksandr Moroz admitted that the parliament had much to do to improve Ukrainian legislation. However, he said, the already available laws, such as on foreign investment protection, are now able to serve as a sound framework for the flow of foreign capital into the Ukrainian economy. True, the government has yet to establish efficient control over the country's economic growth, including over the effective utilization of foreign credits, he said.

Moroz pointed out that the government as a whole, but not separate commercial structures, would steer Ukraine out of its economic crisis. In order to speed up that process, Ukraine requires financial and technological assistance from the West. The world community may rest assured that Ukraine is a reliable partner, and it will repay with increment all the loans it gets, Moroz said.

Official Delegation Visits Australia

AU1509082394 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Sep 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "We Will Fly into Space From... Australia?"]

[Text] It is possible that, soon, Ukrainian artificial satellites will take off from Australian land and Australian coal will be extracted... in Donbass mines. At any rate, these questions were discussed during the first official visit by the Ukrainian delegation to Australia. According to deputy minister of foreign affairs Oleksandr Makarenko, our countries are interested in mutual cooperation.

Australia, in which no more than one-third of the territory has been covered by studies, will be grateful for the assistance of our geologists, and also for the supply of designs, pipes, and arc welding equipment for the construction of the continent's largest gas pipeline. Ukraine

needs bauxite, copper, and chrome ore, which are abundant in Australia. It also needs assistance in the extraction of diamonds, as recently a new kimberlite pipe was discovered in our state.

During the visit, there were meetings with Australian minister of foreign affairs G. Evans and president of the Senate M. Behan. The Senate initialed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation. There was also a meeting with representatives of the Ukrainian community who promised to raise funds for a Ukrainian Embassy building.

It is planned that an official Australian delegation will arrive in Ukraine next year.

Germany To Supply Equipment to Nuclear Plant

LD1509112894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2320 GMT 14 Sep '94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Mazanyy for TASS]

[Text] Rivne, 15 Sep—German experts stated that it was necessary to supply equipment made in their country to the Rivne nuclear power station. This statement was made at a meeting with the workers of the west Ukraine nuclear installation.

Representatives of the firms "Lloyd," "Frazer," "BMU," the controlling body "ZhRS," and the Federal Ministry of Environment [not further identified] reached their conclusions on the basis of preliminary inspection of the stations carried out during the past year. It was established, with the agreement of both sides, that the mechanical arm for monitoring the body of the 1,000-MW reactor, ultrasonic equipment to diagnose metals, fire-resistant agents for the cable and pipeline ducts, and telecommunication equipment would be delivered here first of all. This aid is being given in accordance with the agreement between the Governments of Ukraine and Germany.

National Affairs

Reportage on Crimean Executive-Legislative Crisis

Kuchma Denies Helping Any Side

AU1409133994 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Undated "Statement by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Service"]

[Text] For two days while staying in the Crimea, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma held intensive talks with chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council Sergey Tsekov and Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov.

The Ukrainian president confirmed his position, expounded in the 11 September statement, to the effect

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that the conflict between the Crimean legislative and executive powers must be resolved within the framework of the Ukrainian Constitution and through finding a reasonable compromise.

The Ukrainian president does not support and cannot support unconstitutional actions by any of the sides. Media reports that draw a contrary conclusion on the basis of exclusively Crimean sources are groundless.

Kuchma Has No Plans for Emergency Rule

LD1409131894 Kiev UNIA in Ukrainian 1120 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev, 14 Sep—Leonid Kuchma sees no reason for introducing a state of emergency in Crimea, Oleksandr Rozumkov, aide to the president of Ukraine, told a briefing at the president's administration. He said that Ukraine's Supreme Council has priority in dealing with Crimean issues at the legislative level.

Volodymyr Horbulin, secretary of the National Security Council, told the briefing that the power crisis in Crimea will not affect the next round of talks on the Ukrainian-Russian treaty or the timing of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine. Mr. Horbulin described the actions of Crimea's President Meshkov as irresponsible and dismissed claims by Crimea's minister Viktor Minin that Meshkov has the Ukrainian president's support as groundless.

Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine's Deputy Premier for Defense and State Security, is planning to go to Crimea on 15 September. He will take part in the talks between the Crimean Supreme Council and President Meshkov on the "zero option" proposed by Leonid Kuchma. The option suggests a return to the status quo as on 7 September and cancellation of all decrees and resolutions adopted thereafter.

Kuchma Appoints Special Representative

LD1409120194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1039 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 14 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Marchuk has been appointed the president's extraordinary and plenipotentiary representative for resolving the constitutional crisis in the Crimean Republic. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today by Aleksandr Razumkov, the president's first aide, that Yevgeniy Marchuk will fly to the peninsula tomorrow. His mission is to achieve the "zero option"—the restoration of the situation existing in relations between the president and parliament before 7 September. This is the position held by [President] Leonid Kuchma.

Aleksandr Razumkov said that a conciliation commission is presently at work in the Crimea. The first results

of its work are satisfactory. According to him "the two sides are starting to take steps toward compromise."

President's Envoy Arrives in Crimea

LD1509120994 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Yevgeniy Marchuk, special envoy of the Ukrainian president has arrived in Crimea and is trying to solve the constitutional crisis in the republic, which is part of Ukraine. [passage omitted]

More on Meshkov Support for 'Zero Option'

LD1409210794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov spoke in favor of the "zero option" for resolving the constitutional crisis in Crimea, Crimean Parliament's Chief Negotiator for talks with the president's team Nadir Bekirov said today. Bekirov spoke to parliamentarians after meeting with Meshkov's representatives in Simferopol.

Bekirov said the "zero option" provides for cancelling three legislative acts of the parliament limiting the powers of the Crimean president.

After this the Crimean president agrees to cancel his decrees suspending the powers of the parliament signed on September 9 and to continue talks with the parliament.

Bekirov said the representatives of Meshkov, Viktor Minin and Sergey Nikolskiy, announced that their position had been approved by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Chairman of the Ukrainian parliament Oleksandr Moroz and Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin.

Chairman of the Crimean parliament Sergey Tsekov categorically denied statements by parliamentarians that the Ukrainian president unequivocally supports Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov.

Tsekov said that during his telephone conversation with President Kuchma this afternoon they had only discussed technical details of the coming talks.

First Secretary of the Crimean Communist Party Leonid Grach had said this afternoon that the "Ukrainian president unequivocally supports the Crimean president."

Parliament, Meshkov Preparing for Talks

LD1409124694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1140 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for Tass]

[Text] Simferopol, 14 Sep—Attempts to start a dialogue on normalization of relations between the president and parliament of the Republic of Crimea have been fruitless

so far. The government was supposed to deliver a report on preparations for the autumn-winter period at this morning's session of parliament. The Supreme Council was expected to dismiss the Cabinet of Ministers after rejecting the report. However, the government never even appeared in the debating chamber. Instead it delegated Viktor Minin, the head of the republic's state affairs service—a body which parliament does not recognize—to read a statement.

Escorted by two bodyguards, Minin declared that, in the government's view, the proposed question should not be discussed until the crisis has been resolved. Furthermore, the government regards the submission of this motion as an attempt to remove it from office.

The deputies decided to give the government until 1200 [0800 GMT] to reflect on the matter. Meanwhile, it began debating a draft law on the government of the Republic of Crimea. But the government did not turn up by the appointed time. Finance Minister Lyudmila Zaytseva, who belatedly arrived in the debating chamber, said she was not authorized to speak on behalf of the government. She said the government report was ready but since the plane carrying Vice-Premier Yevgeniy Saburov back from a business trip had been delayed, she suggested postponing it until tomorrow. However, the deputies want to hear the report at this evening's session.

At the same time both sides—parliament and president—have made preparations for the start of talks. A group of MPs have been empowered to hold discussions with representatives of the executive branch on procedures and conditions for these talks. The group of presidential representatives is headed by Serhiy Nikolsky, acting vice-premier and minister of agriculture and food.

Expected Talks Fail To Materialize

LD1409123694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Telephone report by correspondent Yevgeniy Novikov]

[Text] The session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet continued its work today in Simferopol.

[Novikov] It became clear from the first moments of this session that hopes of settling the conflict between the president and the parliament were not justified. The talks between [Crimean President] Yuriy Meshkov and the deputies, previously scheduled for 1000 [0600 GMT] did not take place. [Crimean] Parliamentary Speaker Sergey Tsekov offered a muddled explanation to the deputies on this issue, saying that he had been unable to meet the president as he had been held up at a press conference.

After the speaker ended, Viktor Minin, Crimean minister of state affairs, arrived at the session. He stated that yesterday Meshkov waited all evening in his study for the deputies. However, the chosen people failed to arrive for

a meeting with the president. Evidently the deputies are not interested in holding these talks, stated Minin.

The deputies prevented Minin from continuing his speech by switching off the microphone. As he left the session hall Minin informed the deputies that the president was ready to meet the parliamentarians after 1200 [0800 GMT]. The deputies accepted this offer and delegated a working group of three to meet Meshkov.

Meanwhile, the number of people picketing the parliament near the Supreme Soviet building increased considerably. They were calling on the deputies to enter into a dialogue with the president, whatever the outcome.

The session continued at 1200 following a short break. The deputies had invited members of the government of the Republic of Crimea to the session to give reports. Viktor Mezhak, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, stated at the session that the deputies intend to make the government, headed by Yevgeniy Saburov, resign, and to appoint a new cabinet of ministers.

According to the latest information from the president's public office, at 1200 Meshkov arrived at his study on the sixth floor of the parliament building. Meshkov is reportedly ready to meet the deputies of the Crimean Supreme Soviet to define conditions for the talks.

Deputies Seek To Avoid Destabilization

LD1409204994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1740 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol— At the evening session of Crimea's parliament the deputies failed to hear the government's report on the preparations for the autumn-winter period. Consideration of the issue was postponed to 15 September. Viktor Mezhak, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, commented on this as follows: "The government has a scenario according to which the Supreme Council hampers the work of the executive power and abides by an unconstructive stand." The deputies decided to consider the issue of confidence in the government on 15 September.

They continued discussing the law "On the government of the Republic of Crimea." After the discussion it was submitted to standing commissions for further work.

An appeal, signed by the leaders of the Republic, Reform, Crimean Tatars Assembly, and Agrarian groups, was read out. It says that the representatives of these groups will make efforts to consolidate the corps of deputies; they will not make one-sided decisions aimed at destabilizing the political situation in Crimea; they will use all the options within the framework of the Constitution and current legislation to get out of the situation which has arisen; and all efforts of the corps of deputies will be aimed at solving the urgent economic problems facing Crimea. Aware of the responsibility that rests with the corps of deputies, for the sake of preserving

civil peace and stability in Crimea the leaders of the groups appealed to all organizations to support this statement.

The Russia group, the most representative group in Crimea's parliament, supported items 4 and 5 of the statement.

The evening session was not carried on the radio. Parliament Speaker Serhiy Tsekov explained that the situation in Crimea is tense and it is not worth exciting the population. According to certain data, the recommendation in this connection came from Kiev.

Blackout Imposed on Session Coverage

LD1409212694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean parliament meeting late on Wednesday has imposed a blackout on radio coverage of its session in order, as Parliament Speaker Serhiy Tsekov put it, "not to fuel the already high tension" in the peninsula.

Unconfirmed reports say the move follows a suggestion from Kiev.

The deputies have again postponed hearings into a government report on the region's preparations for the coming winter after government officials failed to turn up at the session.

Vote of Confidence in Government Sought

LD1409173894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At the morning parliament session, Crimean deputies failed to reach a decision on talks with President Yuriy Meshkov to overcome the constitutional crisis, an issue they began discussing yesterday. The group of deputies appointed by Supreme Council Chairman Serhiy Tsekov to agree the subject and terms of the talks with the president returned to the parliament chamber empty-handed after spending two hours in Meshkov's reception lobby.

At the evening session, the parliament adopted a resolution calling a vote on confidence in the government on 15 September. The head of government, President Yuriy Meshkov, who in the past few days has been communicating with deputies in writing, explained the government's stance in a telephone message delivered to Serhiy Tsekov at the parliament presidium. It says that members of the government will not address the session until the constitutional crisis is over. The message was the critical factor which prompted deputies to raise the question of confidence in the government.

The invitation for members of the government and President Meshkov to attend the parliament session has been extended to 15 September.

Parliament Repeals Sevastopol's Decision

LD1509132994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1310 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev September 15 TASS—The Ukrainian Parliament today overruled the decision by Sevastopol's authorities to declare the city Russian. Over 200 Ukrainian deputies voted in favour of this decision.

The deputies justified their decision, by maintaining that the Sevastopol city council parliamentarians were attempting to violate the territorial integrity of Ukraine and change the state territorial system. All this contradicts a number of articles of the Ukrainian Constitution and Ukraine's law on the formation of local power bodies and self-government. The international agreements between Ukraine and Russia, including the treaty signed on November 19, 1990, which recognized the territorial integrity of both sides, were also violated.

Any arbitrary interpretation of laws, treaties or agreements also runs counter to the Yalta and Dagomys agreements and might even further destabilize the situation in the Crimean Republic, the session emphasised.

Lawmaker on Conflict, Sevastopol's Status

WS1509110494 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 3

[Interview with Viktor Mezhak, deputy chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, by Maryana Oliynyk, in Simferopol on 10 September: "We Used To Be Friends With Meshkov"]

[Text] We talked with Viktor Mezhak on Saturday, 10 September, a couple of hours before the exacerbation of the conflict between the president and the legislature. However, my interlocutor was sure that the crisis is over and things will soon become normal again.

[Oliynyk] A couple of days ago, the Crimean Supreme Soviet stripped the president of some of his powers. What was the reason behind this move?

[Mezhak] To avoid misunderstanding that emerged between the presidential structures and the parliament, we had to hold a plenary session on 7 and 8 September and bring the Law on the President of the Republic of Crimea in line with the Crimean Constitution. As we know, the current Supreme Soviet, formed on 10 May 1994, restored in May the constitution of 6 May 1992. The law on the president had been passed for the period of elections and was valid until 30 January 1994. When we restored the 1992 Constitution we immediately saw that the law on the president runs counter to this document. However, due to a great number of urgent issues, we eliminated this discrepancy as late as the beginning of September. Of course, this evoked Meshkov's indignation, for the new version of the law on

the president somewhat limits presidential powers. I would like to emphasize this—"somewhat limits"—and I officially declare this. In particular, while he was the head of state until that time, he is now considered the head of the executive branch. The latter provision caused a turmoil in the mass media and was termed a constitutional coup. In reality though, everything is the other way around.

[Oliynyk] Yuriy Meshkov, too, deemed the parliament's actions as a coup d'etat.

[Mezhak] This, incidentally, perplexed some of his friends and partners. The point is that eight months ago, when Meshkov was still a deputy of the former Crimean Supreme Soviet, he was annoyed with the law on the president, saying that the latter could not be passed for it did not correspond with the Constitution. I am surprised at this metamorphosis.

Speaking about my personal viewpoint.... We used to be friends with Meshkov some four or five years ago. We were like-minded people and partners. Today, he dares shout at me. By the way, not only lawmakers, but ordinary people are astounded with Yuriy Meshkov's behavior. In the office, he is never without his wife or children. Do you remember Raisa Maksimovna [Gorbachev's wife]? Our Lyudmila Mikhaylovna [Meshkov's wife] has already outdone her.

Summing up, I would like to say that conflicts between a president and a legislature, the "pulling of the blanket," are inevitable in every developing democracy. As we can see, similar discussions are held in Kiev, too. This is also a result of illiteracy regarding the issues of democratic rule. That is why the Supreme Soviet has urgently passed the law on the Constitutional Court, and the court is currently being formed. We hope that it will become a mediator in our disputes and make decisions that no one will have the right to appeal.

[Oliynyk] What prompted the Supreme Soviet's decision to support the resolution by the Sevastopol Town Soviet on the town's Russian status?

[Mezhak] Our decision was based on the expectations of Sevastopol residents, an overwhelming majority of whom want the Black Sea Fleet to remain under the Russian flag, and their town to remain the fleet's main base, that is a Russian town.

[Oliynyk] This, however, violates the Constitution of Ukraine....

[Mezhak] The Constitution of Ukraine does not exist; it is still being drafted. What exists is the amended, remodeled, and counterfeited Constitution of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Our conflicts are caused by the fact that after the disintegration of the USSR we continue to live in a legal vacuum.

By supporting the Sevastopol Soviet's decision, we pursued one goal—we wanted to demonstrate to everyone

that Sevastopol is a Crimean town. When it is proclaimed a Russian town, we will demand that Russia pay us for using our territory. Russia is paying Ukraine now, which in my opinion, is absurd.

Deputies Requested To Vacate TV Center

LD1209170594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean Supreme Council adopted an address to President Yuriy Meshkov on Monday [12 September] in response to his statements. According to Interfax, the document says that the parliament agrees to hold talks with the president on condition that it rescinds all his decrees disbanding the Supreme Council and the local soviets. Earlier, Meshkov also expressed his willingness to start talks, provided the Supreme Council revoked its decisions limiting presidential powers.

Our correspondent Yevgeniy Novikov has reported from Simferopol that at 1730 [1330 GMT] an assault group of the Crimean Supreme Council took control of the TV center. At the moment, attempts are being made to take over the radio station as well. The Crimean president's administration is trying to persuade the deputies to vacate the buildings they have seized.

Local Councils Condemn Meshkov's Actions

LD1409222394 Kiev UNIA in Ukrainian 2150 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol, 14 Sep—Sessions of the Simferopol, Dzhankoy Rayon, and Dzhankoy City councils approved a decision to condemn the anticonstitutional decrees by the president of Crimea. They regard these decrees as being without legal force and therefore incapable of fulfillment on territories subordinated to the above councils.

Power Structures Warn Against Violence

AU1409134194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Sep 94 p 8

[Undated "Statement by Ukraine's Procurator General's Office, Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Ukraine's Security Service"]

[Text] In view of the deterioration in the mutual relations between the Crimean legislative and executive powers, Ukraine's Procurator General's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Security Service state that the situation in the Crimea remains calm. The peninsula lives its normal life. The struggle among the authorities has not affected labor collectives or the population as a whole, with the exception of individual politicized groups of citizens. Two sparse rallies by supporters of the Crimean president and of the republic's Supreme Council were held in Simferopol. No facts of breaking public order due to the given situation have been recorded in populated areas.

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At the same time, the aforementioned struggle between the sides may have dangerous consequences. Ukraine's Procurator General's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Security Service assess as illegal those actions, which are meant to prevent the Crimean people's deputies from entering the Supreme Council building and to block the television. Of particular concern are those threats and practical actions by the sides to the conflict that may lead to drawing officers of law-enforcement bodies into a confrontation and to using force in resolving the conflict.

Such actions may lead to a spread of this local conflict and may have unpredictable consequences.

In the situation that has taken shape, Ukraine's Procurator General's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Security Service declare that the law-enforcement bodies in the Crimea have been instructed to prevent all violence, presenting danger to citizens' life or health, or involvement of law-enforcement officers in unlawful actions.

The law-enforcement bodies in the Crimea are faithful to the law and will strictly protect public and constitutional order.

Militia Chief Says Situation 'Normal'

WS1509105294 Kiev IMENEM ZAKONU in Ukrainian
9 Sep 94 p 2

[Interview with Crimean Militia Chief Valeriy Serafimovych Chernyshov, by V. Kryvorotko; place and date not given: "Crimeans and Visitors Can Be Tranquil Because They Are Adequately Protected"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Kryvorotko] Valeriy Serafimovych, certain organs of the media have claimed—referring to rather influential top officials—that Ukraine has stopped financing the Crimean militia. Will the militia staff in the Crimea receive allowances and, if so, from where will the money come?

[Chernyshov] Of course, they will, because the financing of the Crimean militia was not suspended. The Crimean Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVS] was reorganized in the Main Department of Internal Affairs [HUVS] in the Crimea on 18 May of this year. Therefore, beginning 18 May 1994, the financing of MVS was halted because it did not exist, but HUVS—I was nominated as its chairman—began receiving the financial allowances. Our staff received and will receive monetary allowances. We had some problems with cash but, in my opinion, this is a routine problem in our state.

The most important thing for us was to finance our rayon militia offices in Crimean cities. We did everything to transfer the funds for allowances and issue the needed money for material and technical supplies.

The former MVS officers, who are current HUVS officers, were the next to receive their money allowances. By the way, General V. Kyznetsov, minister of the

nonexistent MVS, made every attempt to block the payment of allowances to his former staff. He was not satisfied with the source of financing but could not find another one. None of the former MVS officers, however, took his mythical promises—"foreign states will help us"—seriously.

[Kryvorotko] Therefore, the statements that the Crimean militia is not financially maintained do not, mildly speaking, correspond to reality.

[Chernyshov] Yes, such statements are really mystifying and aim at cheating the public, and are indeed of a political nature. In this case, as in many others, we see a desire to involve the militia staff in political battles. Such moves distract the attention of militiamen from their routine duties—protection of legal rights and interests of citizens. In my opinion, the most important element for all of us is that the state provides real guarantees for the protection of our families, houses, and our private property from any criminal infringements. Any law-abiding citizen is absolutely indifferent as to which office—MVS or HUVS—protects him. We have no right to ignore the interests of the people under any pretext.

[Kryvorotko] Our militia officers can fulfill their duties only under one condition—they must be professionals. Do you agree with me?

[Chernyshov] You are absolutely correct. All our disasters proceed from our lack of professionalism. This is especially true of our militia staff. Dilettantism in our work either leads to serious consequences (all of us carry guns) or—even worse—to ludicrous situations (we had a lot of them over the last two months). How can we speak about the competence of our militia?

First of all, I would never agree with the practice of nominating strangers to top positions in our militia. Second, I do not understand how officials who are guided by a principle—a good person is all that we need—can issue such orders.

[Kryvorotko] Once, according to General V. Kyznetsov's orders, certain officials, as well as a few militia officers, were allowed to carry guns, including automatic weapons. Where are these weapons now?

[Chernyshov] The situation with militia officers is evident. Proceeding from the principle of rational sufficiency, we have calculated the total number of automatic guns needed by the rayon departments for performing their regular duties. Special warehouses for storing arms have been established in the provinces. Surplus firearms are being returned to our main warehouses.

The situation with the officers who had been granted permission to carry guns (that is an open violation of acting legislation) is, however, more embarrassing. We are currently trying to bring this process in line with the law, to issue gun permits to those officers who need them, make them familiar with the rules of keeping and

using their guns. We will, however, take the guns from those people who do not need them.

[Chernyshov] What about promoting middle-rank and high-rank officers in the Crimean militia?

[Kryvorotko] According to the existing regulation, they will be promoted by orders issued by the Ukrainian internal minister. The little delay which occurred some time ago can be explained in the following way: The applications for promotion were improperly worded and they were signed by V. Kyznetsov, who is not one of our staff officers. Of course, he was indignant and blamed all the sins on me, trying to present himself as a benefactor for all those who, due to his mistakes, were not duly promoted on time. As soon as this issue was resolved and people were promoted, I was again accused of being too "generous" in promoting them.

[Chernyshov] How do you assess the current situation within the Crimean HUVS?

[Kryvorotko] We are convinced that the situation is completely normal. Our officers are performing their duties with full devotion. I am satisfied with the fact that we managed to prevent the split in the Crimean militia. It currently works as a single body in the single legal space of Ukraine and actively cooperates with its colleagues from other regions of our state.

Militia's Role in Conflict Viewed

WS1509110394 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 13 Sep 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Volodymyr Zamanskyy: "The Crimean Landslide Has Moved. Who Will Manage To Stop It?"]

[Text] What happened in Crimea on Sunday [11 September] had been long awaited: President Meshkov disbanded parliament. We have already reported in detail on the warning blow with which the Crimean Supreme Council was trying to strike the president. Yuriy Oleksandrovych deemed the attempt to transform him from a state into government leader as a coup d'etat and anticonstitutional act. Now, the government is leveling similar accusations against him.

Yu. Meshkov hints that he is supported by Ukrainian President L. Kuchma. On Sunday, they actually held a conversation. It is hard to say, however, whether it was a protocol meeting with the high-ranking guest, who had returned to Mukholatka to continue his vacation interrupted by a meeting with a Chinese leader, or serious negotiations. The conversation lasted 30 minutes.

Still, as events on the peninsula developed, both presidents would more often reach for a telephone receiver. There have been five such conversations between them. A few hours before Yuriy Meshkov stunned the Crimeans by issuing edicts dissolving parliament and taking all powers into his own hands, it had become known that the Ukrainian Interior Ministry had

appointed Colonel Vitaliy Kyrychenko as the new chief of Crimea's Main Directorate of Internal Affairs [HUVS] and the Simferopol Militia had been put on combat alert. At that time, this seemed incomprehensible. All the more so, since, as was reported, the candidacy of V. Kyrychenko had been coordinated with the Crimean president. The president, let me recall, has always considered the Crimean HUVS an illegal body.

Col. Kyrychenko began his career in criminal investigation services, he served in the Security Service of Ukraine, and recently worked at the Simferopol University. Late evening on 10 September immediately after his appointment, he told a BBC correspondent that he intends to adhere to Ukrainian law in his work. The colonel declined, however, to answer a question as to whose side he would take if he received contradictory orders from Kiev and Simferopol, as has often been the case so far. "It is far away from God here, but close to the authorities," V. Kyrychenko said.

Although the Crimean authorities are located near his office, when President Meshkov requested that the newly appointed chief of the Crimean Militia replace or at least substantially reshuffle the Directorate Collegium, which four months ago followed not Meshkov's Interior Minister V. Kuznetsov but Ukrainian Deputy Interior Minister V. Chernyshev, Vitaliy Kyrychenko firmly replied that he would not give up the collegium.

General Veleriy Chernyshev, who since 19 May was leading the Crimean HUVS being boycotted by the local authorities, displayed a backbone and some willpower, having subordinated to himself the entire Crimean Militia and prevented its split. Having neither an apartment nor an office in Simferopol, he is returning to Kiev, where he will perform the duties of first deputy minister of internal affairs.

His chief, while visiting Crimea, presented to journalists draft amendments to the Ukrainian Law "On Militia," according to which the republic will have its own interior ministry subordinated to both Kiev and Simferopol, and a candidate for the minister will be coordinated with Kiev and approved by the Crimean Supreme Council.

It is hard to imagine that the Ukrainian parliament will give such a royal present to Yu. Meshkov, who has so far no power structures under his jurisdiction, aside from a small detachment of bodyguards.

On Sunday, the detachment blocked the local television station, which forced the Crimean Supreme Council Presidium members to read their protests against the president not on television but on radio.

The Crimean Militia barred all entrance to the parliament building, not even letting through [Crimean Supreme Council Chairman] Serhiy Tsekov. A little while later, they removed the Crimean Supreme Council emblem hanging above the entrance. Thus, the parliament of autonomy apparently ceased to exist, and legislators convened their session at the Attorney General's Office building.

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It was symptomatic that, in the first place, the media reported that the session was held at the HUVS building. In a radio interview, Viktor Minin, chief of the Crimean State Affairs Service, Yuriy Meshkov's right hand, and Russia's subject, presented his predictions for further developments: "A constitutional council is established at the side of the president, which comprises representatives of Ukraine—to avoid a war—and it drafts new constitution. It should be drafted in two months. It is then put forward for discussion and adopted in a referendum. Later, a new assembly, or even Supreme Council, is elected, and life goes on."

Taking into account the edicts issued by Yu. Meshkov, it seems that V. Minin presented the president's viewpoint correctly. S. Tsekov, speaker of the Crimean legislature, attempted to calm the situation by terming the events a misunderstanding and inviting Meshkov to negotiations. Although the talks finally took place, according to Tsekov, they were "rough." The president did not yield an inch.

Viktor Minin took a very neglectful stance on the negotiations. He said that "this powwow is basically useless" and recalled "the damned Khasbulatov-like disease" which is "like a virus." One should presume that it was Tsekov whom he had in mind.

President Kuchma, according to Minin, pins great hopes on the negotiations with the Crimean Tatar mufti, from whom he expects if not support than at least neutrality. The Crimean Tatars have so far been in harsh opposition to Meshkov, who has recently stated that they "should not expect a very cheerful resolution to their problems," because they voted for Kravchuk in the elections. Now, Meshkov is ready to offer them a few portfolios in his parliament.

Although the last weekend in Crimea was quite calm, the Crimean Militia will be substantially reinforced—1,000 militiamen have been dispatched from other Ukrainian oblasts to help out.

Chernobyl Station Chief on Safety, Shutdown

WS1509083094 Kiev KYIVSKA PRAVDA in
Ukrainian 6 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" interview with Serhiy Parashyn, general manager of the "Chernobyl Power Plant" production amalgamation, by V. Demenev; place and date not given: "Safety of a Nuclear Power Plant Is an Economic Category"]

[Text] [Demenev] The Chernobyl power plant has been the talk of the town for eight years now. For many people the very word "Chernobyl" is an epitome of trouble and tragedy. What is the situation in 1994?

[Parashyn] Meeting with various delegations which are constantly visiting the station, Kievites, and other Ukrainian residents, as well as the politicians who made a career off of Chernobyl; reading newspapers and

watching television programs, I have come to the conclusion that people have only heard certain facts about the 1986 accident and rumors about the "sarcophagus." Most people do not know anything about the current state of things at the station or the situation in our state's power engineering sector.

Someone might say that, being the station's manager, I am not impartial. This is true. However, I have interest in the station's reliable and stable operations. Meanwhile, reliable means safe. This requirement is not coincidental. We have realized that safety is an economic category, because it guarantees a stable production process, and electric power is keeping Ukraine's entire economy "afloat."

At the same time, I am convinced that people should be told the truth and nothing should be concealed. Times when nuclear power engineering belonged to the "strictly confidential" category, are gone for good. For a number of years, the Chernobyl power plant has been open to everybody, including our opponents—come, see, and compare. In developed countries where nuclear power is widely used—France, the United States, Japan, or Germany—nobody fights against it. Those states only fight for enhancing the safety of reactors, they actively seek and implement new technological solutions.

Answering your question, I would like to point out that the Chernobyl power plant currently has two power units in operation. The first—which belongs to the first generation of RBMK reactors—and the third unit, which has a more advanced protection system. In view of the priority nature of safety, the first power unit works at 70 to 80 percent its capacity. The second unit, following a fire in a turbogenerator in October 1991, was withdrawn from operation in line with a Supreme Council resolution—nuclear fuel was unloaded from it and some gear was dismantled. However, after the moratorium on developing nuclear power engineering in Ukraine was lifted, a decision was made to put the unit in operation by the end of 1995. In the course of repair and renovation, measures will be taken to step up the level of safety at the unit, in accordance with the requirements of Ukraine's State Committee for Nuclear Supervision and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

[Demenev] The "Chernobyl Power Plant" production amalgamation comprises the "Shelter" facility, also referred to as the "sarcophagus." This facility is dangerous in view of its radioactivity. What is going on there?

[Parashyn] We have never concealed the dangerous nature of this facility. However, all kinds of rumors to the effect that the "sarcophagus" has cracked or that radiation is leaking from it, do not correspond to reality. The state of the fuel-containing mass and the entire structure is being constantly monitored by our staff and experts of the interbranch scientific-technological center "Shelter" of the National Academy of Sciences. The highest fuel temperature in the reactor's crack is now 42

degrees centigrade and specialists rule out the possibility of a spontaneous chain reaction. Last year, immediately after the radiation level had gone down to acceptable norms, work on sealing the unit's walls and roof started, given that high radiation prevented this when the facility was being erected. As of today, 60 percent of work has been completed, and the sealing of the "sarcophagus" should be completed by the end of the year. Leaks from the shelter are only 15 percent the norm for operating power units. Experts from the Kiev Institute of Power Projects, who have a license for examining the structure of the facility, guarantee that the latter will be in proper shape for 15 more years.

Two years have passed since the Ukrainian Government announced an international competition for transforming the "Shelter" into an ecologically safe system. However in my opinion, the competition is being conducted very sluggishly. The results of bidding and of the technical and economic feasibility studies will be announced no sooner than by the ninth anniversary of the accident. The European Union commission, which finances the competition, has so far allocated only 3 million ECU, that is about \$4 million. Meanwhile, the implementation of the project will be a couple of decimal places higher.

[Demenev] You have deemed safe operation of the station as your staff's top priority. What are the specific principles on which the station's safety is now based?

[Parashyn] The creation of a nuclear, radioactive, fire, and other security systems for a modern nuclear power plant involves a huge complex of measures and daily efforts of thousands of people. Each component deserves separate discussion. I will be talking only about the primary things, although there are no secondary issues when it comes to issues of safety. Let me cite just two figures—the total cost of work on remodeling reactors and power units, carried out since the accident, has exceeded 25 percent of the price of the station's capital stock, and the speed of operation of the reactors' protective systems has increased almost tenfold. The nuclear-physical parameters of the chain reaction process have been changed, which makes an accident similar to the one that occurred in 1986, impossible. This has been confirmed by numerous tests conducted both in Ukraine and abroad on test reactors and by means of computer simulations of emergency situations.

Nevertheless, I must point out that over the last two years we have also experienced the negative consequences of the former legislature's decision to withdraw the station from operation in 1993. Financing of long-term projects was discontinued and the station—a leader among the stations equipped with RBMK reactors with regard to introduced security measures—has become an average station. We have to improve the situation in the immediate future. We have already drafted programs concerning each unit and ordered new hardware, including diagnostic equipment. We are not going to save money at the expense of safety.

[Demenev] I think that very few people know that nuclear power engineering is the only industry in Ukraine which, despite the economic hardships, has increased its productivity over the last four years.

[Parashyn] The notorious decline in electric power generation has occurred at thermal power stations due to dramatic shortages of residual fuel oil, gas, and coal. Ukraine has to import 60 percent of its organic fuel paying world prices in hard currency. No wonder that thermal electricity is almost twice as expensive as nuclear electric power. Besides, even if we had enough coal and oil, we would be unable to bring production up to the required level—the equipment at 70 percent of thermal stations has reached the end of its operating life and requires immediate replacement.

Meanwhile, according to renowned Ukrainian specialists, the development of nuclear power engineering is economically advantageous. Every third kilowatt of electricity produced in Ukraine comes from nuclear power plants, and in winter, those plants produced up to 40 percent of electric power. The share produced by the Chernobyl power plant is 17 percent.

Ukraine has enough uranium ore and zirconium necessary for the production of heat emitting elements. The Ukrainian Committee for Atomic Energy has submitted for the legislature's and government's consideration the "concept for developing atomic power engineering and establishing a nuclear fuel cycle in Ukraine by 2020." The implementation of that program will enable the creation of an efficient power system and ensure Ukraine's genuine independence.

[Demenev] How do you assess the West's unceasing attempts to close down Chernobyl?

[Parashyn] In my opinion, there are several reasons for this. First, this is Ukraine's only station equipped with RBMK reactors. Eleven other power units are situated in Russia, and two—in Lithuania. However, both Russia and Lithuania are much stronger in economic terms, and the West finds it much more difficult to exert pressure on them. Once the Chernobyl power plant is closed down, it would be easier to exert pressure on Russia. Lithuania has in fact given in and promised—in exchange for \$35 million—to shut down the power units at its Ignalina power plant 20 years after the beginning of their operation, instead of the designed operating life of 30 years.

Second, large Western producers of electricity generating equipment for nuclear power plants have interest in removing the Chernobyl plant from the world's map, for this would give them a free hand in expanding their market. It is no secret that after the 1986 accident, the launching of new power units witnessed a slump in some states and the companies suffered considerable financial losses. This is the most weighty reason behind Western businessmen's attempts to influence their governments and public opinion.

Third, RBMK reactors can be used to produce weapons-grade plutonium for atomic bombs, that is to say, for military purposes. Quite naturally, Western politicians do not like that.

[Demenev] The G-7 heads of government discussed the closing down of Chernobyl at their Naples conference in July. They resolved to allocate \$200 million for this goal. Is the undertaking doable at such a low cost?

[Parashyn] I declare with all responsibility that this sum will not even cover 10 percent of the total cost. Here I have calculations made by a special commission that worked in Ukraine some time ago at the initiative of U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy William White. To withdraw the station from operation, Ukraine will need \$1.4 billion; another \$1.3 billion will be needed to launch three power units at Zaporizhzhya, Khmelnytsky, and Rivne power plants. To resolve the social problems of Chernobyl station's employees and Slavutych residents, at least another \$700 million will have to be spent, and the construction of the "Shelter" will cost \$1.2 to \$1.4 billion. Together, these figures give us a tremendous sum of more than \$4.5 billion. Thus, in the opinion of serious specialists, the \$200 million is a sorry sum.

[Demenev] What would you suggest?

[Parashyn] If the West really wants to help us close down the Chernobyl plant, here is one option: We would build two modern power units close to Slavutych, designed and outfitted by Western companies. Simultaneously, preparations would be made to stop the existing power units. The day a new station is put into operation would be the last day of RBMK reactors' operation. At the same time, Ukraine would receive an adequate replacement for the withdrawn units. We are unable to carry out this project without the West's assistance.

In my opinion, the implementation of this endeavor will be the G-7's important political victory, for the world will see that the issue of Chernobyl has found a fair resolution. On the one hand, that will be a manifestation of goodwill and Western producers of atomic equipment and technologies will have a chance to earn money. On the other hand, Ukraine will keep a highly qualified group of 5,000 nuclear specialists and strengthen its energy sector, and thus, the entire economy.

[Demenev] Many people cannot imagine the volume of work and the number of complicated technological problems accompanying the phrase "withdrawing a nuclear power plant from operation." Could you tell us about this in greater detail?

[Parashyn] Even under most favorable circumstances the withdrawal of any nuclear power plant from operation is a lengthy process, lasting a couple of decades. A reactor is not a machine that can be turned off with a touch of a finger. In accordance with the accepted world practice, after stopping a power unit, the spent nuclear fuel is kept in the reactor for a year and then, for several years it is kept

in reservoirs close to the reactor. After this, comes the two-year period of shipping the fuel to a stationary storage basin. Along with this, all the systems of the station are maintained in a mothballed state for 30 more years. Then, it will be time for such unpleasant operations as decontamination of the reactor's circulation ducts, its systems, and equipment. In another 30 years a complex examination of the reactor is to be carried out again to determine the following measures to be taken on the basis of new knowledge and technologies that emerged in the meantime. Only then can the exact date of dismantling the reactor be proclaimed. Given that in the West the period of withdrawing a reactor from operation is estimated at 30 to 100 years, it will hardly be shorter in Ukraine because physical and chemical processes do not depend on political systems or somebody's wishes.

Thus, I would like to state with full responsibility that those who demand that Chernobyl power plant be immediately shut down, deliberately or not, are trying to drive Ukraine into a deeper economic crisis, because even a prosperous state cannot afford maintaining a nonoperating nuclear power plant. Under our circumstances, the station would immediately gobble up the entire national budget. I believe that Chernobyl power plant should operate until the end of its designed operational life, that is the first unit—until 2007 and the third unit—until 2011. This will strengthen Ukraine's economy, and not destroy it.

Benefits for Chernobyl Victims Reduced

LD1509085394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov, 15 Sep—Because of Ukraine's budget deficit the government is to substantially reduce benefits for those affected by the Chernobyl disaster. Thus, the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers ruled that the town of Belaya Tserkov in Kiev Oblast will not be part of the zone of rigid radiation control any longer. The territory and the population are no longer considered to be affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

Local dosimetrists reckon that in this town with more than half a million population, geiger counters are still showing that radioactive emission is above the permissible limit. Nevertheless, from now on tax will be levied from all types of earnings.

This situation not only threatens residents affected by the Chernobyl accident but also the population living in the vicinity of the other four atomic power stations of Ukraine. Where radiation is above permissible limits, they have also been enjoying some substantial benefits so far.

Kuchma May Close Unprofitable Coal Mines

MM1409131394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Babich under the "Details" rubric: "...Therefore the Mines Must Be Closed?"]

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[Text] We have been informed by sources in the Ukrainian presidential staff that L. Kuchma intends shortly to carry out a "restructuring" of the Donbass which could lead to the closure of many unprofitable mines. The president, in the words of functionaries, can no longer reconcile himself to the fact that the output per miner often does not amount to even one tonne of coal per day, and in many places the coal bed thickness does not exceed even 40 cm.

There are many other deposits in Ukraine and Russia where a stratum 3-4 meters thick lies near the surface; hence there is no sense in investing funds in the "loss-making" Donbass. It is planned to find work for the unemployed in the service sector and "public works" sphere.

Rukh Activist Views Party's Prospects

WS1409133194 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYIV in
Ukrainian 7 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by People's Deputy Oleksandr Lavrynovych, Rukh first deputy chairman: "What Was Rukh Before? What Is It Now? What Are Its Prospects?"]

[Text] The Central Council of Rukh on 4 September discussed the situation in the democratic camp and the ways of uniting the efforts to resolve the social issues in the state. A proposal to establish a new all-Ukrainian organization on the basis of the deputies' faction "Reforms" platform was debated. We present the position of Rukh First Deputy Chairman O. Lavrynovych.

The majority of political parties in Ukraine emerged at the wish of the top authorities: The emergence of an idea prompted a construction of an organization by a group of people. No serious political organization emerged in a majority of cases.

Only two serious political forces in Ukraine—Rukh and the Party of Communists—have powerful organizations.

Rukh emerged both from high and low: An initiative group outlined a concept of opposing the state and of promoting reforms in the Ukrainian-Russian society, and united those who wanted to work for the creation of an independent Ukrainian state.

These ideas generated a response and support from the grass root level, and the establishment of organizations under various titles went in two directions. As a result, we have a strong political organization.

Communists are in a different situation. After a lengthy period in office, they attempted to restore their party-and-state structure. They were unable to do it, but there remains a great number of people, whose mentality cannot be quickly changed by the streams of new information and whose perception of the world has remained virtually unchanged.

In addition, administrative dominance which has been preserved in a majority of Ukrainian regions enabled communists to keep a rather large and well organized structure.

Therefore, if we speak about the emerging initiatives, we should remember about the chances of reaching declared goals.

We realized during the additional Supreme Council elections that there is a need in a new organized political force that would be attractive for the Ukrainian people. We saw that the leftist forces and the representatives of reformative, democratic organizations that have existed for a long time have virtually won no new seats, of course, with a few exceptions. This means that society needs a political force with a new political orientation.

This is prompted by the uneven political geography of Ukraine. There is an obvious cultural, economic, and political difference among Ukrainian regions.

To enable Rukh to cooperate with other political organizations on the path toward market reforms providing for efficient management of the state and an efficient economy, that in its turn will create possibilities for the implementation of social programs, it is necessary to use the existing mentality of the people and to make optimal decisions.

Therefore, I support the statement declaring the intention to establish a new political force on the initiative and the platform of the deputies' faction "Reforms."

If we study the work of "Reforms" and Rukh at the Supreme Council, the results of voting on the main and, in fact, all of the issues discussed, we will see that we have virtually no differences at all.

There are differing viewpoints on the formation of Ukrainian society and the Ukrainian nation at the close of the 20th century. There are some differences in personal viewpoints of certain Rukh leaders and a new deputies' group [as published].

Such equal relations and contacts, like, let us say, those between Christian-Democratic and Christian-Socialist Parties in Germany will obviously improve fruitful cooperation.

We have rather bright prospects. An efficient political coalition is able to accelerate the rate of reforms in Ukrainian society and positively affect the process of creating the state.

In my opinion, it is normal that certain politicians, former Rukh members, who—due to various reasons, primarily of a non-political nature—joined the deputies' faction "Reforms," initiated the establishment of a new political organization.

We should find a common language.

First of all, to implement our party programs.

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Second, to bring to a logical conclusion the implementation of the leverage of resolving problems proposed in our preelectoral programs with the help of parties' representatives.

Kuchma Domestic Policy Adviser Profiled

WS1409140094 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 6 Sep 94 pp 1,3

[Article by Yuriy Kril: "He Is Called 'the Shadow of Hamlet's Father'"—first paragraph published in a box]

[Text] Many of my colleagues consider Petro Lelyk the most mysterious figure on President Leonid Kuchma's team that won the 10 July elections for him. Some of them call him a "dark horse." Although I repeatedly met with the man during his work in Lvov as [Rukh Chairman] Vyacheslav Chornovil's adviser, I have not managed to puzzle out his exceptional dexterity to suddenly appear at the side of famous politicians while they ascend to the top, and then suddenly disappear after they reach the pinnacle of their success. He is currently the chief of the Directorate for Issues of Domestic Policy in the presidential administration, and he is probably not going to disappear.

There is talk around town that a few years ago he led Boris Yeltsin to the political Olympus in a way that was invisible to onlookers and the press. Later, he assisted Vyacheslav Chornovil. However, as soon as these politicians had achieved the desired results after a fierce battle, Petro Lelyk, for no known reason, would end up without any portfolio. His "love-affair" with Leonid Kuchma has proved to be protracted. Although after the former prime minister's dismissal his former adviser receded to the background, he did not abandon his future chief during the time of the latter's coerced political repose. After Kuchma's victory in the elections, Petro Lelyk also received his portfolio.

So who is he—this invisible satellite of certain mighty people of this world and an ordinary servant of numerous masters, who has a strong sense of political junctures? Was one of the newspapers totally sympathizing with the president correct in calling Petro Lelyk a "political adventurer"? To answer these questions, it is essential to have systemized information about this man. Yet, pieces of information about him are contradictory and are based on personal observations, including the scarce details provided by the people with whom he worked in the Lvov Oblast Council. Nevertheless...

It is quite certain that Petro Lelyk was born in 1961 in Ternopil Oblast. According to appropriate rosters, he studied economics, history, and literature at the Lenin-grad and Moscow Universities and the Gorkiy Institute of Literature respectively. He claims that he served in Afghanistan and was awarded the Order of the Combat Red Banner. According to certain reports, he went through compulsory military service in special purpose units, where he mastered the use of various types of

firearms. According to him, he could cope with any "killer." Nevertheless, he bet on politics and those of its attendants who are able to quickly reap political dividends at turning points in history. This can be confirmed by the rise to the pinnacle of power of Boris Yeltsin, whom Petro Lelyk, according to his own accounts, helped on the former's path to the post of Russian parliament chairman. Unfortunately, I have managed neither to find any details regarding this period of his life nor to unravel the reasons behind P. Lelyk's departure from the Russian politician's team. Perhaps he was deemed an alien among countrymen...

On the other hand, the Lvov epic of Petro Lelyk as Vyacheslav Chornovil's adviser is more or less known. I know from my own experience that many interviews of the latter were edited by the former. Moreover, he did this so skillfully that Vyacheslav Maksymovych would seldom correct them. Such was the case, as reliable sources assure, when he entrusted P. Lelyk with work on his public speeches. Apparently, V. Chornovil quite often used the fruits of his adviser's creativity and knowledge in classical philosophy, economics, and history in his political activities.

Petro Lelyk also took quite good care of his Lvov chief in extraordinary situations. For instance, on the eve of the first presidential elections, when V. Chornovil was aiming for the presidential office, a noisy scandal was about to erupt with regard to his son Taras. Since I then managed to publish an article concerning this topic (my former editor in chief objected to it), now I would not like to bring up the events of long ago. I will only say that disclosure of Taras Chornovil's "misdemeanors" would have severely damaged his father's image. While working on the materials concerning this story, I discovered one very significant fact: P. Lelyk, wanting to extricate T. Chornovil from serious trouble, found an approach, so to speak, to certain Lvov shady leaders, to persuade them into quenching the ardor of the opponents of his boss's son...

Therefore, when V. Chornovil suddenly turned down the assistance of his adviser, this exploded in Lvov like a bomb, since many people knew how many invaluable favors the latter did for his chief. Meanwhile, Mr. Chornovil insisted that Lelyk left his team at his own request, because he was apparently not satisfied with his remuneration (approximately 600 rubles in 1991). The real reason behind the dismissal of the Lvov Oblast Council chairman's proxy were common court intrigues. As everybody knows, for some reason V. Hel, one of V. Chornovil's deputies, strongly opposed P. Lelyk and came forward with a categorical ultimatum: Either I or Lelyk. Although I do not know what cat crossed the lines between them, it is common knowledge that P. Lelyk presented compromising materials on Hel. Chornovil decided to preserve his deputy, who had won fame on the battlefields of war for legalization of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

P. Lelyk thus found himself outside the Lvov Oblast Council threshold. Later, he served Messrs. M. Zhulynskyy [former deputy prime minister for humanitarian issues] and O. Slepichev [minister for external economic relations and trade] until L. Kuchma became prime minister. Having assumed the post of the latter's adviser, Petro Lelyk, as rumor has it, to take revenge on S. Davymuka, another of his foes from Lvov and then local governor, would put on the prime minister's desk press publications criticizing the presidential representative and provide his own comments. Although he then did not manage to overthrow his opponents, many of them have recently disappeared from the corridors of Lvov authorities. It is also unclear whether he will play his current role for a long time. Provided that certain forecasts are true, it will be at best three months. We will see. In any case, even if matters take an unfavorable turn

for him, he will hardly remain without a job for a long time. After all, according to certain sources, Petro Lelyk belongs to the officer corps of the former Soviet Army Intelligence. Such cadres, of course, are in short supply: Somebody will undoubtedly hire him.

I should add that P. Lelyk is a perfect family man and a loving father. I do not know about the present, but in the past he did not avoid rowdy company, he smoked a lot, he worked even more, and did not sleep much, being always in good shape, despite his somewhat frail appearance. During table talk he did not keep silent, and because he was an outgoing man, had broad contacts.

He is called "the shadow of Hamlet's father," most likely because he prefers intricate brain-work to glory. It happens that the shadow eclipses the figure of its owner, to decide the fates of entire nations.

Belarus

Railway Issue With Lithuania Resolved

WS1409125494 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1230
GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] On September 13, Belarusian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko received his Lithuanian counterpart Povilas Gylys. They discussed the prospects of bilateral relations between Belarus and Lithuania. The talks ended in signing a protocol on consultations between the foreign offices of the two states.

As a BELAPAN correspondent was informed at the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the problem of railway stations and sections has been solved at last. One of these days the railway offices of the two states will exchange the necessary documents, and sign the corresponding protocols. The expert groups for delimiting the frontier continue their work. Its results will become known within the next few days.

According to information received, at the meeting of the foreign ministers the final date of the forthcoming meeting of President of Lithuania A. Brazauskas and President of Belarus A. Lukashenka was never fixed.

Lukashenka Working 'Within Reasonable Limits'

WS1509085294 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0730
GMT 15 Sep 94

[Quotations marks as received]

[Text] As is generally known, in view of worsening of the president's state of health, confinement to bed was prescribed to him. But, as Alyaksandr Feduta, chief of the board for public and political information at the president's administration, declared at a briefing on September 14, the president, availing himself of the absence of Minister of Health Inesa Drabyshevskaya, has become a persistent breaker of hospital routine. "This was displayed in 'his penetration to the jubilee concert of famous 'Pesnyary' (a pop group)." According to A. Feduta, since Monday, September 12, Alyaksandr Lukashenka has been turning up for work within reasonable limits.

Tensions Between President, Parliament Predicted

LD1409220094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540
GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Nikolay Zhrebetsov and Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The Belarussian parliament will meet in session in Minsk on September 27. President Lukashenka is expected to propose a program for fighting the economic crisis—one of the main items on the agenda. According to some sources President Lukashenka hopes to secure parliament's decision giving presidential decrees the

status of laws until January 1 1996, which, in his opinion, would make it possible for him to govern the country more effectively throughout the period of economic reforms.

At the same time observers in Minsk predict certain tensions in relations between parliament and the President already in the first days of the session. Such speculations stem from the fact that President Lukashenka on August 4 signed a decree putting all property, offices, hotels, repair and building agencies, health service establishments, motor transport fleet, the print shop and three state preserves, including the Belovezhskaya pushcha forest under the direct control of the presidential office's technical affairs manager Ivan Titenkov. Before those assets were shared by parliament, the government, and the supreme and constitutional courts.

The presidium of the Belarussian parliament on August 8 met in session under the chairmanship of Mechyslaw Hryb. Most participants opposed the presidential decree saying it was a violation of the law. Belarussian parliament members argue that the decree runs against the Constitution, which says that the state bodies are independent within the area of their competence and have the right to departmental property.

According to sources close to Hryb the parliamentary speaker tried to settle the conflict. He insisted that the presidium should adopt a non-binding protocol which would merely voice concern over President Lukashenka's actions. The source said that Hryb did so out of the desire to avoid interfering in the first steps Lukashenka took in the capacity of president. However, Lukashenka has failed to reconsider his decree.

Observers point to one more reason for a likely conflict between the president and parliament—the demotion of the former Belarussian Defence Minister Colonel-General Pavel Kozlovskiy to Lieutenant-General. The demotion followed an investigation held by the control committee at the presidential office. The committee found that Kozlovskiy had spent government money on the wedding of his son Andrey and the parliamentary speaker's daughter Yelena Hryb. President Lukashenka also reduced to a lower rank four other Generals in the Defence Ministry and the State Security Committee saying they had received their ranks in violation of the established rules.

President Lukashenka several days ago formed a Security Council but avoided including Mechyslaw Hryb in it. Instead, the list of Security Council members carried the name of the first Vice-Speaker, Vyachyslaw Kuznetsov. Before he was elected parliamentary speaker Hryb headed the national security commission in parliament.

Parliament Chairman Names Press Secretary

WS1509085194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in
Belarusian 1600 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb resumed his duties today after returning from leave. On

his first day back on the job, the speaker met with deputy speakers and heads of Supreme Soviet administration departments. He discussed preparations for the 16 September meeting of the highest state officials with rayon-level leaders, which is being held at the initiative of the president. According to a BELINFORM correspondent, the parliamentary speaker's entourage increased by one person. Myacheslaw Hryb appointed Valeriy Lapin as his new press secretary.

Former Border Troops Chief Refutes Charges

WS1509092594 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0730 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] On September 14, former commander in chief of the frontier troops of Belarus, Yawhen Bacharow, met representatives of the mass media in order "to defend the honor and dignity of the frontier troops and, to a certain degree, my own honor."

As is generally known, Y. Bacharow was relieved of his post, and his deputy Yawhen Kavalow now performs the functions of commander in chief.

Y. Bacharow declared that last month the situation in the frontier troops became worse, in particular, the stream of illegal migrants increased. In the first 8 months of the current year, 1,800 people were arrested when they attempting to cross illegally the frontier; last year only 900 people were arrested. At the same time Y. Bacharow pointed out that the Belarusian frontier was guarded effectively enough: In 1993, 12 illegal crossings were not prevented, this year only 5, whereas in Poland the showings are 70 and 50, respectively.

Y. Bacharow dwelt at length on the findings of the commission for checking up the activities of the frontier troops, which was formed in accordance with the president's decree. These findings were made public by chairman of the commission Pyotr Chaus last week.

On the Abuses of Hard Currency Resources

"There were no abuses of hard currency in the frontier troops," Y. Bacharow said. He produced documents according to which \$200,000 were allotted for purchasing equipment and maintaining the troops. \$159,302 have been already spent—for purchasing equipment for two frontier units that are being formed in the Baltic direction. Meanwhile, these units have already managed to cover the expenses, "gaining" \$400,000 thanks to only one operation.

On Trade in Arms

According to Y. Bacharow, the frontier troops sold 32 pistols and 16 new sniper rifles. He also declared that the trade was carried out in full conformity with the law, and acquainted journalists with the government's resolution authorizing the trade. The former commander in chief said that while trading in arms they dealt with reliable enough clients and listed some state leaders who bought

arms in the frontier troops. Among them was Viktor Sheyman, state secretary at the Security Council, who has available 3 gas pistols, as well as a Stechkin pistol; the State Committee for State Security purchased 16 Makarov pistols. The frontier troops rendered the corresponding service to courts, prosecutor's offices, banks. Y. Bacharow holds arms were sold at "normal prices."

He expressed opinion that "frontier troops with great prospects have been formed in the country." But, in spite of this, the former commander in chief does not intend to fight for his returning to the post.

Drought, Fuel Shortages Hit Potato Harvest

MM1409124194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Gulyayev: "Roll Up, Customers!"]

[Text] Potato-rich Belarus seems to be having problems with potatoes this year. Apart from the fact that the area under crop has been reduced (by roughly 75,000 hectares compared with last year), the drought has also had an impact. According to preliminary estimates, a hectare of potatoes will produce no more than 100 quintals of tubers. On average. And some rayons would be lucky to get 70....

But that is not the least of their troubles. Around 40,000-45,000 tonnes of fuel are needed to harvest, procure, and put potatoes into storage. However, the republic's resources are such that stocks can only supply 40 percent of the required amount of diesel fuel and 35 percent of the required gasoline. The rest will have to be bought from commercial structures. But farms in most cases do not have enough money for that.

In a word the situation is such that, if the [harvest] results prove favorable, the republic will nonetheless be able to meet its requirements. But it will only sell around 200,000-250,000 tonnes abroad. Which may mean losing a market that was already lost to a considerable extent last year when people were greedy and began demanding the kind of price that Russians refused to pay. Then the Poles seized the opportunity and supplied potatoes at a cheaper price. Then even the republic's elite potatoes had to be used for alcohol, starch, and livestock feed.

Now the government seems to be willing to abandon the restrictions and free potato prices. And thus contracts can be concluded. Roll up, customers.

Moldova

Chisinau Approves CIS Cooperation Plan

AU1409190794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, ROMPRES, 13/9/1994—During the recent Moscow meeting of the CIS heads of governments, the Moldovan delegation approved the plan of

cooperation within the CIS, BASAPRESS learned from Sergiu Cechina, representative of the Moldovan Embassy to Russia. Moldova adhered to the customs union, currency union, scientific-technical union, the program on creation of joint labor and goods markets and cooperation in the social and charitable sphere. "Given that Moldova has initially refused to participate in the military-political cooperation programs, the Chisinau delegation did not sign the clauses on military cooperation and peacekeeping," said Cechina. He said that this will not be in the detriment of Moldova's economic cooperation with other CIS countries. Cechina told BASAPRESS that Moldova as well as other CIS countries did not sign the agreement on payments union of the CIS integration program.

Statistics Department Reports GNP Decrease

LD1409161494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Moldova's economy is in crisis. The Statistics Department reports that in the period from January to August the gross national product decreased by 30.8 percent compared to the same period last year, while the volume of industrial output fell by 33.5 percent.

The faster decline in the volume of exports, compared to imports, caused a trade balance deficit of \$21.1 million during the period from January to July.

Since the beginning of the year, retail stores sold 51.2 percent less goods than in January to August 1993. The volume of services rendered has also decreased by 50 percent.

The average wage amounts to 111.8 lei (\$1 equals 4 lei). It has increased 4.9 times since the beginning of the year, while its purchasing power has fallen 52.3 percent.

At the same time, the average monthly inflation rate has stood at 7.6 percent since January 1994. Last year it stood at 28 percent.

Gen Lebed on 14th Army Withdrawal

OW1409112694 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 2255 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Interview with Lieutenant General A. I. Lebed, commander of the 14th Army; place and date not given; from the "Aty-Baty" program—recorded]

[Text] One very much wants to share Pavel Grachev's confidence that the withdrawal of troops [from Germany] has been carried out in the interests of Russia. However only the future can tell whether this was for the happiness or grief, glory or shame of the Russian people. History will be the final judge. However the precedent of the frenzied relocation of troops, during which the interests of the Army have once again been forgotten in the name of political concerns, makes us wary. Something similar in terms of the cramped timetable was attempted with the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army

from the Dniester Region by 1 September this year. Could it be that the history of the hot spots in the near abroad and the hundreds of lives that were lost in the Dniester region battles have taught us nothing?

[Lebed] No matter who adopts them, I am categorically opposed to decisions such as this one to disband the [14th] Army while preserving the Army itself—in other words beheading the Army—when there is a mass of information that local criminal organizations, government power structures, and organizations of every kind of socialist bent dream of this very thing happening. They will use the beheading of the Army to start a series of seizures of the equipment and arms of military units. Who adopts them has absolutely no significance.

I am not trying to hang on to my position, absolutely not. I would like to cite something I have heard. It's very good. When Lieutenant [Poruchik] Vronskiy was asked: Mr. Lieutenant, would you like to become a swan [lebed]? He said: What, land on wet, cold water with a bare ass? Brrr, spare me!

No, I am not hanging onto my job. You can look at this any way you want. I am not interested in what motivated the minister of defense when he signed the decision. I know the situation here and I know that a decision of this sort, the implementation of this decision, will cause an explosion in the situation here. I have every reason to suppose that by this sufficiently clumsy method someone, playing some kind of nomenclature games, is trying to get rid of me. But as I have said, I am not grasping for this job. At the same time he is placing the region on the brink of conflict, and this is a fact. Besides the Army is being reduced, there can be no doubt about this. On Russian territory this reduction can be carried out in any way; the Army could be scattered in just two days if you wished. In other words, local conditions must be taken into consideration. You cannot escape this.

Here the president has issued an edict that all the property, everything that moves or does not move, including equipment, arms, and ammunition belonging to the 14th Army, is the national property of the DMR [Dniester Moldovan Republic]. The corresponding mass media has drummed this into people's heads and so the local population considers that it owns it all. [They think that] if we do not use it for what it was made for we can sell it and live well. I disagree with him and I am ready to prove to people in the know that they will gain nothing from this sale. But they imagine that the plan to collect scrap metal can be fulfilled by scrapping two or three tank companies and that everything will be rosy. So this is what is going on.

It is no secret that the 14th Army is a fairly disorderly formation. It grew in a rather haphazard way from units previously subordinate to the military district and the center which for geographic reasons remained on Dniester territory. Everything to the east was privatized by the Ukraine and everything to the West by Moldova. So it cannot exist in its present composition. In the past—

during 1992 and 1993 and early 1994—18 units [chast] were disbanded and three were withdrawn to Russian territory, making a total of 21. Another 15 units are being processed right now and are in various stages of reorganization. Reorganization is also affecting the Army's administration and a reduction of some 20 to 25 percent can be and should be carried out painlessly and logically since the administration is too big. This is a current concern and is on today's agenda. It must be done.

But this kind of radical decision, this insistence on the hope that everything will go into motion as a result and function in some way, will not work. The Army should not be concerned in any way about the political situation, regardless of the political weather or who is in power. It must engage in its own affairs—strengthen combat readiness and combat training—regardless of where it is deployed, even if it is in the middle of nowhere, be it the Dniester region, Cuba, or Puerto Rico. It must engage in its own fundamental business.

The appropriate work should be carried out somewhere in the diplomatic or political spheres where various agreements can be concluded. This should not affect the Army. It must do its own thing. Agreements may be reached or important international guarantees arrived at by the UN, the CSCE, the Pope in Rome, or whatever, it does not matter. Political, economic, and technical conditions for the withdrawal of the Army need to be established. Here for example, from the Ukraine, where the withdrawal (?is about to begin). The condition of the railway track, the availability of flat-bed carriages, the through-capacity of the railways? Will the Ukraine be happy that one of its railway lines will be jammed with freight cars hauling weapons? Take utilization issues and the ecology. There are numerous problems.

But this is not the Army's concern. This should be done by other people who prepare these conditions. They prepare a withdrawal schedule and they prepare public opinion. Now when all of this is ready, when the complex of work has been done, I, or somebody in my position, am handed an order: Here my friend, you have three days to get ready, two days to load the first train, and in

five days the first train must be on its way. In three months's time there should be no trace of you having been here. This is the correct Army approach to matters. Everybody says: Yes sir. And we begin to work.

Now what do we have here? They announced: You will be withdrawn over a period of three years. Once again the reason was vague—once a settlement of the Dniester conflict has been reached by political means, and after synchronizing the Army's withdrawal with the acquisition of corresponding status by the Dniester region. Nobody has worked out any of the details over the past three years and I do not think anybody will in the next three years either.

Now what does the average American think when he is put in this sort of situation, when he is told he will be withdrawn at some time over a three-year period? [Sentence as heard] He does not know whether this will happen during the third, 13th, 33d, or 36th month, but he knows it will happen. He immediately—even if he is most honest—thinks: What the hell do I need combat readiness or combat training for? Why should I waste time, money, and nerves in order to maintain occupied or vacant buildings in some sort of normal state? Why should I maintain equipment and deal with customs? What do I need all this for?

This creates the attitudes of a temporary occupant—I do not need anything, after me comes the flood. Some for patriotic reasons, others for mercantile reasons, get the idea of selling a tank, say, or a warehouse, or even a battalion to somebody. Everything becomes possible, you just slip under the jurisdiction of the DMR, or Moldova, or the Ukraine and there are no problems. You sell something and immediately slip over the border. No Russian law enforcement agencies can reach you. This is the frightening temporary occupant psychology that develops. All kinds of dubious raids are carried out on the basis of various underground deals.

Ultimately, a normally managed Army organism becomes a gang. If you need an example take a look at the Western Group of Forces in Germany. It is a completely corrupt gang. I think every procurator in Russia would like to get their hands on Comrade Burlakov.

Kazakhstan

Prime Minister Chairs Meeting on Privatization

LD1409180694 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1200
GMT 14 Sep 94

[Excerpts] [no dateline as received] A regular session of the presidium of the Council of Ministers, chaired by Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, was held on 12 September. [passage omitted]

It was noted that small-scale privatization contributes to a large extent to the formation and development of the republican private sector. Over 3,140 facilities have been sold by 376 open type auctions and 1,840 transport vehicles by the closed ones. Another 2,366 enterprises will find new owners before the end of this year. Laws have been drafted on bankruptcy, foreign investments, and some other topics. Work is being carried out on the creation of a unified power system in the country and further expansion of a network of thermoelectric power stations, reconstruction of the existing ones, and increase in coal mining.

However, the abovementioned ministries and the state committee for state property in their activities aimed at implementing reforms and stabilizing economy do not comply with requirements. The presidium of the Council of Ministries rebuked their leaders for protracting the creation of a market of securities and of insurance funds. We should facilitate drafting of the corresponding legal acts with a view to using foreign capital in privatization. In industry it is important to elaborate a single mechanism for bankruptcy and clearing up finances of enterprises, revalue capital assets so that individuals and organizations would not buy facilities for a song.

The final result leaves much to be desired. For example, the Cabinet of Ministers' draft resolution on the privatization of institutions that provide cultural and everyday services has been returned to the state committee for state property for a final touch. The Economics Ministry has submitted a proposal on including additional chapters on structural investment, regional policies, and foreign economic activities. At the same time, it has not made relevant corrections to a government plan. As a result, all the work was in vain.

The presidium also criticized a number of local executive bodies. By 6 September, heads of the administration of Atyrau, Zhambul, Mangistay, and Semipalatinsk regions and the Leninsk city administration had not submitted their plans aimed at fulfilling the government program. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister To Face Criminal Proceedings

LD1409233594 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy
in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The parliament of Kazakhstan has agreed to institute criminal proceedings against Mars Urkumbayev, the

minister of economy. He is accused of abusing office and inflicting considerable damage on state interests.

Parliament Approves Proceedings

LD1509090494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in
Russian 0805 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty], 15 Sep (Itar-Tass)—Kazakhstan's members of parliament have finally taken a stand on the situation concerning Mars Urkumbayev, the republic's minister for the economy.

After a repeat vote late in the evening of 14 September, Procurator General Zharmazhan Tuyakbayev was given the "go-ahead" to continue the criminal case against Urkumbayev, albeit without holding him in detention. The criminal case was launched by the procurator general in connection with the economy minister's involvement in handling currency illegally paid to commercial organizations headed by relatives of the accused, with dubious deals involving the sale of oil products and with organizing vodka distilling workshops. According to the procurator general, in the end Urkumbayev had started to arrange for himself the purchase of a villa which was the property of the state for a purely token price and he acquired a limousine worth around \$20 thousand for \$3 thousand. On 13 July the president of Kazakhstan suspended Urkumbayev from his post on the advice of the procurator general pending verification of the accusations that the economy minister had abused his official position.

A week ago, after two days of debate, parliament failed to agree on the prosecution of the high-ranking official, despite the documents presented by the procurator's office. Parliament had to agree to this because as a deputy in the former Supreme Soviet of the republic Urkumbayev has the right to parliamentary immunity for two years following the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet. The republic's procurator general was therefore obliged to halt proceedings against the economy minister.

In the opinion of a number of members of parliament, an error then occurred as a result of imperfect procedures. This meant that people voted separately on two similar proposals, splitting the vote. Ultimately, neither of the proposals had a quorum of votes.

Tajikistan

Border Guards Clash With Opposition at Sarigorsk Gorge

LD1509111294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050
GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 15 TASS—A major operation is underway to remove scattered groups of the Tajik opposition from the Sarigorsk Gorge adjoining the 12th

Border Guard post controlled by Moscow border guards. Taking part in the operation are both Russian and Tajik border guards.

During the clashes a Tajik border guard received light injuries, ITAR-TASS learned from the Tajik Ministry of Security. A bid ammunition depot belonging to Tajik mojahedins was found and destroyed. [sentence as received]

Commenting on the situation in other areas of Tajik-Afghan border, the Tajik official described it as complex, but kept under joint control by Russian and Tajik border guards.

Military Predicts Defeat of Antigovernment Groups

LD1409123894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1121 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 14 TASS—The Tajik military predict that anti-government formations stationed in the Pamir highlands on the Tajik territory will be defeated. Head of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmonov, who is also supreme commander-in-chief of national armed forces, flew to Khovaling 270 kilometers east of Dushanbe on Wednesday to familiarize himself with the situation unfolding in Tajik highlands. Some reports say that the commander of the Tajik national army, Major-General Alexander Shishlyannikov, and heads of a number of power structures have been staying in Khovaling for three days.

Violent armed clashes between government troops and detachments of the Tajik irreconcilable opposition have been going on there for a month. At present, an operational headquarters was created there to control military operations and coordinate the activities of units of the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry and the Security Ministry transferred there from the Tavildarin region.

Sources from the Tajik Defence Ministry said that the situation in the Tavildar region is nearing a deadlock. Government troops are attempting to restore full control in all directions, while detachments of the armed opposition are making attempts to break through to Nagorniy Badakhsham attempting to cross the border and return to their bases in Afghanistan.

Military sources expressed confidence that in the next few days the main forces of the opposition, which, according to some reports, numbers from 1,500 to 2,000, will be defeated. The remaining groups will hardly be able to cross into Afghanistan, taking into account that Russian border guards who were reinforced after new armoured carriers and more servicemen had arrived, are capable to ensure reliable protection of the border.

The situation remains tense in the Komsomoldaban region (150 kilometers east of Dushanbe), where special

units of the Tajik militia are conducting an operation to neutralize armed groups of the opposition. The situation remains tense in the Tajik capital as well.

Another group of militiamen arrived in Dushanbe from the Leninabad region, ITAR-TASS learned from the Tajik Interior Ministry. Additional contingents will be deployed to prevent groups of terrorists from breaking through to Dushanbe.

Rakhmonov Tours Hostile Area

LD1409235294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The situation in Tajikistan remains extremely tense. A real war is continuing between government troops and fighters of the irreconcilable Tajik opposition. Emomali Rakhmonov, the leader of Tajikistan, has arrived in the area of hostilities. With him is General Bessmertnyy, deputy commander of Russia's peace-keeping forces in Tajikistan. Rakhmonov intends to find out about the situation on the spot so as to give instructions to a delegation from Tajikistan which has left for talks in Tehran to resolve the situation.

Arab Mercenaries' Presence Viewed

MM1509105194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Petrenko: "Why Does Arab Boy Have Tajik Grief?"]

[Text] A week ago a curious document reached the UN headquarters in New York—an appeal from Tajik leader Emomali Rakhmonov to the Security Council. It says in particular: "In the past few days the inter-Tajik conflict has begun to acquire new contours.... We are seriously alarmed by the mass participation of mercenaries from Algeria, Afghanistan, Sudan, and some other states in combat operations on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Tajikistan Government has irrefutable proof on this score, including dozens of men arrested on Republic of Tajikistan territory.... Because of the mounting danger of the uncontrolled spread of the conflict in the region we appeal urgently to the Security Council and the governments of the states whose citizens are taking part in the war against the people of Tajikistan to take urgent and effective steps to prevent further gross interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan...."

A list of 100 mercenaries from over 10 countries was attached to the letter.

In 1992 and 1993 at the very start of the conflict military specialists only rarely spoke of the presence on the republic's territory of Afghan mojahedin instructors passing on to their Tajik brothers in religion their own advanced experience of warfare against the infidels. Today it seems that no serious combat operation can manage without them, without war professionals.

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Officers of the Tajik power departments and Russian servicemen are telling increasingly frequently of mercenaries joining special forces groups known as "black storks." Their distinguishing feature is their black uniform and the white turbans on their heads. They say that the "storks" carry out the boldest operations against the government troops and almost never leave their own men dead on the battle field.

That special groups consisting of foreign mercenaries are now operating in the ranks of the Tajik mojahedin is a fact. This information was confirmed for me last Sunday by a leader of the Tajikistan Defense Ministry Main Staff. He said that 8-9 September, when opposition gunmen undertook a broad offensive on Tavil-Dara, a commando raiding force of 10 men was sent to that population center. They fought like devils and at the very height of the battle Arabic was unexpectedly heard over the air: The "guests" were discussing among themselves the plan for a possible retreat....

Not so long ago the Tajik newspaper NIDON RANDZHIBAN published an interview with an Arab mercenary who had fought the Dushanbe regime and had subsequently been arrested by that regime. Here is his story. Abu-Ishaq Ibn-Muhammad was born in 1971 in south Iraq, in Tikrit, in the same settlement where the country's present president, Saddam Husayn, was born. In his early youth Abu-Ishaq was already attracted to the ideas of the "Muslim brothers" and under their influence decided to devote his life to the jihad—the struggle against the infidels for the triumph of Islam throughout the world. In July 1990 the young man left for Iran, where for eight months he underwent training at the "Somondodzh" [name as transliterated] military camp. In the spring of 1992 the new fighter for the faith, having completed his training course, left for Afghanistan and then for the Pakistani city of peshawar. According to him it was here he first heard of the war being waged by the Tajik mojahedin against "Dushanbe's communist regime." Later in north Afghanistan Ibn-Muhammad met Tajik gunmen who had fled to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and with their aid he crossed the Tajik-Afghan border in the region of Khorog (Gornyy Badakhshan). Here he met with another six of his fellows—Arabs from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Yemen.

For several months the Iraqi citizen fought in an opposition detachment in the small spot of Sagirdasht, which is in the southeast of the republic. "Very soon I realized that I was not among Muslims but among criminals," Abu-Ishaq says. "They pitilessly plundered ordinary peasants, took the last food, livestock, clothing, and gasoline in the villages."

Having become disillusioned with his comrades in arms he decided to leave Tajikistan but as he crossed the mountain border—in the opposite direction this time—he was seized by border guards. Failing to take into account the young adventure-seeker's repentance, the republic's Supreme Court sentenced Abu-Ishaq to a

whole seven years. For all these years the native of sunny Tikrit has been settled in a cell at Dushanbe's number 7 prison.

Of course, there can be different attitudes toward the revelations of the arrested Arab and the man himself. One thing is obvious: The internationalization of the Tajik conflict is continuing.

We shall not forget that over the 15 years of war in Afghanistan a whole generation of people has had time to grow up who know nothing but how to fight. Whether it is on the right or left bank of the Pyandzha makes no difference. To ensure that this movement finally ceases what is needed is not appeals to the United Nations, what the Tajiks need is simply to reach agreement and come to terms with each other.

But until that happens "wild geese," "black storks," and other birds of death will continue to fly to Tajikistan.

Foreign Ministry Denies Conspiracy Charge

LD1209135394 Moscow *ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 1020 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By TIA-KHOVAR correspondent Negmat Ochilov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 12 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Relations between the Tajik Security Ministry and the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service are strictly regulated by the agreement on cooperation and interaction between these two departments signed in 1993. This was stated at today's briefing in Dushanbe by Zafar Saidov, head of the information department of the Tajik Foreign Ministry, in connection with the recent media report that a group of the Tajik Security Ministry's staff were sent to Moscow to hold an action against the coordination center of the Tajik democratic forces in CIS countries. Zafar Saidov stressed that such pseudo-actions are absolutely out of the question.

International Labor Migration Forum Held in Dushanbe

LD1209175494 Dushanbe *Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik* 1200 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] An international seminar on work force migration was opened today, on the initiative of the Ministry of Labor and Employment of the republic.

The representatives of international organizations on work force migration, the International Labor Organization, as well as guests from Moscow and representatives from all the embassies accredited in Tajikistan attended the seminar.

Opening the seminar, Liviu Bota, representative of the United Nations Organization, gave the floor to Munavarsho Nazriyev, the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. The latter welcomed those present on behalf of the government of Tajikistan and wished them success.

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Later, Shokarimov, deputy minister of labor and employment of the republic, took the floor and delivered a speech on the present situation of Tajikistan and attracting its inhabitants to labor.

Uzbekistan

'Arafat Comments on 'Solid' Links to Uzbekistan
LD1409232994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said that his visit to Uzbekistan was designed to promote cooperation in every sphere. He was welcomed in the Tashkent airport by acting parliamentary chairman Erkin Khalilov and Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Komilov.

'Arafat emphasized that Palestinians had ancient and solid links with the Uzbek president, government and people.

The schedule of his two day visit includes talks with President Islam Karimov and meetings with deputies and Foreign Ministry officials at which the Middle East issues and the Tajik-Afghan crisis would be discussed. No documents are scheduled to be signed.

Answering questions, 'Arafat told journalists that his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had been helpful in overcoming certain problems Israel and Palestine had come across at the Paris meeting the week before.

'Arafat also intends to visit the Palestine center in Tashkent and meet with his countrymen, in particular Palestinian businessmen operating in Uzbekistan.

Positive Foreign Trade Balance Reported

MM1409122394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Adilbek Kaipbergenov: "They Bought Less Than They Sold"]

[Text] For the first time in the last three years, independent Uzbekistan has reached a positive balance in its foreign trade turnover. According to unofficial information, in the first six months of 1994, exports exceeded imports by \$23.4 million. In all, exports rose by 18 percent and imports decreased by 15 percent. As before, around two-thirds of the goods bought abroad were foodstuffs (grain, meat, sugar) and petroleum products.

Because of confusion as regards railroad transportation within the CIS and sharply increased tariffs based on the Swiss franc, the volume of former economic ties between CIS members has fallen sharply. Thus, this year alone, for instance, a decrease by a factor of 10 is expected in the supply of fruit and vegetables to traditional consumers in Russia, as compared with 1991. According to reports in the Tashkent weekly BVV, in 1992-1993 the negative difference between imports and exports as a whole throughout the republic has reached an astronomical sum—almost \$521 million. Admittedly, it is unclear whether gold is taken into account in these calculations—Uzbekistan is one of its major world producers.

Armenia

Right-Wing Parties Merge, Urge Constitution

NC1509093594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1237 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan, 14 September (SNARK)—As statehood supporters union was called today the merging of six social organizations in Armenia whose representatives appeared today with a joint statement. At a press conference in Yerevan the leaders of Armenian National Movement, Republican, Democratic, Liberal Democratic, Social Democratic "Henchak", and Christian Democratic parties, as well as Armenian Intelligentsia Union announced on their intention to speed up the adoption of a new Constitution of the republic. They did not rule out the possibility of further extension of union, so that a pre-election block would be formed.

The press conference participants unanimously declared that forces exist in Armenia that stand for anarchy and attempt to torpedo the adoption of new Constitution. Authors of the joint statement spoke "against any attempts to replace the authorities by violence".

Central Bank Chairman Says Stability Preserved

NC1509095694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1237 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the BUSINESS-SNARK file]

[Text] Yerevan, September 12 (BUSINESS-SNARK)—The increase of the dollar rate against dram in September is caused by pre-inflation expectations, says the chairman of Armenian Central Bank Bagrat Asatryan today at his next press conference. According to him, stabilization is still preserved in the field of finances. In August the inflation made only 3.7 per cent.

Asatryan has mentioned that governing of the Central Bank is against the enlargement of participants of currency auctions at Yerevan Stock Exchange, as it is advisable for them to act in Yerevan Stock Exchange by means of their banks.

According to him, as regards the catastrophically small per cent of long-term credits, definite solutions are not found yet.

Armenia to Join NATO Partnership 5 Oct

LD1409124594 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1030 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan (IPRINDA)—An IPRINDA correspondent reports that Armenia intends to join NATO's Partnership for Peace program on 5 October. After visiting New York with an Armenian delegation led by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to attend the 49th session of the UN General Assembly, Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan will then travel to Brussels to sign the Partnership for Peace program.

Azeri Cease-Fire Violations Reported

NC1409114794 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0644 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("AZG" daily), 09/14/94—The situation at the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] fronts remains unchanged. As in the past, sides of the conflict refrain from active military operations, though the Azeri Army continues policy of small violations of the cease-fire.

The enemy shelled, using artillery and large caliber machine-guns, the Armenian defense positions at the villages of Levonarkh in the Mardakert district and Shurabad in the Agdam district in the afternoon of September 13. No casualties are reported. Karabakh forces refrained from returning the fire.

RMK military reconnaissance reports significant concentrations and movements of Azeri manpower and attack equipment at several sections of the front line, and particularly in the Fizuli direction. Turkish "Grey Wolves" appeared again in the troops of the enemy. Three such units have been reported so far.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev, Other Officials Meet Iranian Minister

NC1509061894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The Iranian cooperatives minister met the Azerbaijani president and the speaker of the parliament separately and discussed ways to expedite the implementation of agreements between the two countries.

According to our correspondent in Baku, Geydar Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, met the cooperatives minister and stressed the need for further consolidation of bilateral relations.

The Azerbaijani parliamentary speaker expressed his appreciation for our country's assistance to the people of this Republic.

Aliyev Asks Arms, Money From Turkey

NC1509084394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1536 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Washington, September 14 (SNARK)—As reported the September 13 "Washington Times", Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev announced during the meeting with Turkish journalists in Baku that Turkey has to increase its military and economic aid to Azerbaijan fighting with Armenia.

"Turkey is our friend and brother, and should give us more credits and arms", told Aliyev to "Anadolu" news agency [not further identified] reporter. Aliyev expressed his discontent with the level of military cooperation between two countries and informed that Azerbaijan

expects more from Turkish military experts in Baku as well as from Azerbaijani officers training in Turkey.

"This is obviously not enough for a fighting country. Turkey does not render military support to us", announced Azerbaijani President.

Kocharyan's 'Partially Confidential' Meeting With Aliyev

NC1409115194 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0644 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("AZG" daily), 09/14/94—According to well informed sources, a partially confidential meeting between the Chairman of RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] State Department of Defense [SDD] Robert Kocharyan and the Azeri President Geydar Aliyev has been held during last high-level negotiations between Karabakh, Armenia and Azerbaijan in Moscow.

Though the Azeri mass media are doing their best to hide the fact of this meeting, same sources report that leaders of the two countries had 1.5 hour long discussions, dedicated to resolution of the Karabakh-Azeri conflict. The sides agreed to keep the cease-fire, though didn't reach agreement in a number of principal questions.

RMK SDD neither confirmed, nor denied this information. At the same time our sources report that Robert Kocharyan positively valued the negotiations with Geydar Aliyev and other officials.

Aliyev's Meeting With Britain's Ellison Reported

NC1409182094 Baku Azerbaijan Radio Televiziya Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] As reported earlier, British MP Harold Ellison, who is the head of the parliamentary group on Britain's relations with Azerbaijan, has been in our republic for the past two days. President Geydar Aliyev received the guest today. They touched on matters related to the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia and discussed the possibility of the improvement of friendly relations between Britain and our republic. Geydar Aliyev said that significant attention must be focused on informing Britain of the realities in Azerbaijan.

Harold Ellison thanked Aliyev for his warm welcome. He said that this was his fourth visit to Azerbaijan and that he has traveled to the confrontation areas and observed the incidents several times. Ellison also said that he has briefed his country's leaders on the developments and noted that he maintains contacts with our republic's embassy in London to receive information on Azerbaijan. Ellison assured Geydar Aliyev that he will brief the British parliament and the government officials on the information he has compiled during his visit.

President Geydar Aliyev said the following:

[Begin Aliyev recording] The Azerbaijan Embassy in London was opened in February. Your views on the

work of our embassy are very valuable. I am very pleased that you are in contact with our embassy officials. I am also very pleased that you cooperate with them. Our embassy needs that kind of cooperation very much. I kindly ask you to maintain your cooperation in the future.

You have outlined your views on the changes in Azerbaijan. I am very pleased. I believe that the main change is the cease-fire, which has been maintained during the past four months. I wish to stress that the cease-fire we have at the present time is the longest in the six-year war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. I held talks with President Levon Ter-Petrosyan in Moscow a few days ago. We issued a joint statement to the effect that we will make an effort to have the cease-fire maintained. Azerbaijan is complying with that statement. [end recording]

Thomas Young, Britain's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Azerbaijan, attended the meeting.

Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov also received Harold Ellison today. The guest briefed Gasanov on the work of the Britain-Azerbaijan Friendship Society. He is a member of that society. Regarding the visit of an Azerbaijani delegation to Britain, Ellison described it as very important in the effort to promote relations between the two countries.

Defense Minister Denies Bombing Armenian Positions

LD1409210694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Azeri Defense Minister, Lieutenant-General Mamedrafi Mamedov denied allegations by Armenian official sources about bombardments from Azeri territory of Armenian army positions in the Krasnoselskiy District of Armenia.

"We deem it necessary to inform the world community of the fact that Azeri armed forces strictly observe the cease-fire conditions," says the Minister's statement made public in Baku on Wednesday.

The truce in the zone of the Armenian-Azeri conflict has been maintained since May 12. This is the longest cease-fire since the conflict began.

Parliamentary Session Postponed; No Reasons Given

LD1409230294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] A session of the Azerbaijani Milli-Mejlis (parliament—Interfax) earlier scheduled for September 14 has been adjourned once again by order of the parliamentary leadership, the parliamentary press office told Interfax. However, it declined to name the reasons for the postponement.

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Initially, the session was planned to be held as far back as September 12.

Sources in the parliamentary opposition said that the postponement was caused by fears of the parliamentary leadership to aggravate the situation in the republic. The deputies were to consider stripping one of the leaders of Azerbaijan's Popular Front, Isa Gambar, of his powers as deputy. The request was initiated by the court which is considering the summer 1993 events in Ganja. The court wants to detain Gambar who was chairman of Azerbaijan's parliament when the events took place.

Clashes between government troops controlled by then president Abulfaz Elchibey and units of current Prime Minister Surat Huseynov took place in Ganja in June 1993. The clashes left many dead. The Ganja events were the beginning of Huseynov's "crusade" on Baku which ended with the removal Elchibey as head of state.

Georgia

Situation in Gali District 'Under Control'

LD1509110994 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English* 1049 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi September 15 TASS—The situation in the Gali district and on the Abkhazian border along the Inguri river is under control. Abkhazian posts have been placed along the Gali canal to prevent provocations. Additional units of Abkhazian militia were brought into the city of Gali, Vladimir Mikanba, deputy commander-in-chief of the Abkhazian Armed Forces, deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers, told *ITAR-TASS*.

He said the situation on the border along the Inguri river is controlled by local militia. Posts of peacekeeping forces of the CIS, recalled the other day under a decree of Russian deputy defence minister, General Georgiy Kondratyev return to their previous positions. "The situation is coming back to normal. We have been able to avoid mass uncontrolled passage of refugees across the border," Mikanba said.

A statement of the Abkhazian Supreme Council adopted at an extraordinary session which ended on the night from Wednesday to Thursday said that refugees should return home in accordance with the earlier reached agreements.

Refugees Return to Abkhazia Postponed 48 Hours

LD1509091294 Moscow *Russian Television Network* Russian 0800 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The mass return of Georgian refugees to Galskiy [Gali] district of Abkhazia did not materialize yesterday after all. According to Georgian Defense Minister

Vardiko Nadibaidze transport for the operation was ready but the border crossing had to be postponed because of the deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia. Russian Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev believes that the operation will have to be delayed by another 48 hours. During that time it may be possible to ease the severity of the dispute in Abkhazia.

Incidentally, *ITAR-TASS* has reported that there are plans for Kondratyev to meet the Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzinba in Sukhumi today. The aim of the meeting is to clarify the factors preventing the refugees' return to Galskiy district.

Refugee Repatriation Lacks Sufficient Security

AU1409152694 Paris *AFP in English* 1439 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Tbilisi, Sept 14 (AFP)—The Russian-Georgian planned operation to return Georgian refugees to Abkhazia was slammed by the UN High Commission on Refugees Wednesday [14 September] for lacking sufficient security guarantees.

"In the UNHCR's opinion, we do not believe that there is sufficient security to repatriate the refugees," said the UNHCR acting representative at the Georgian capital Tbilisi, Billy Norstrom.

Norstrom said the UNHCR had failed, despite several attempts, to receive confirmation of security guarantees from the Russian peacekeeping force deployed in the security zone along the frontier between Georgia and its breakaway province of Abkhazia. [passage omitted]

Russian Peacekeepers Blamed for Tensions

LD1409151994 Moscow *INTERFAX in English* 1336 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Abkhazian Parliament Speaker Vladislav Ardzinba has blamed the Russian peacekeeping forces for the aggravation of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. He told *Interfax* that the situation deteriorated after Russia's Deputy Defense Minister Colonel-General Georgiy Kondratyev announced the beginning of the return of the refugees to the Gali Region at 10:00 Wednesday.

He said that the actions of the Russian peacekeeping forces were at variance with all of the earlier signed agreements and that the return of the refugees must be strictly regulated in accordance with the these agreements. Departure from this procedure is fraught with the most serious consequences, he said.

According to sources in Sukhumi, Kondratyev met with Abkhazian Prime Minister Sokrat Dzhindzholia in Gali. Details of their talks are not known. Kondratyev also asked Ardzinba for a personal meeting.

Meanwhile, the return of the refugees across the border river of Inguri has not begun yet, but is likely to begin within the next few hours. Head of the Gali administration Ruslan Kishmaria told *Interfax* that the about 5,000

refugees who had gathered on the Georgian bank were being checked by the police.

Head of Abkhazia's Ochamchira Region Batala Tapagua reports that several thousand Abkhazians, who are ready to move to the Inguri river to prevent the return of the refugees, had gathered in this regional center. The crowd is under control so far, he said.

Georgia's Ambassador to Russia Valerian Advadze believes that the decision to begin the return of the refugees on September 14 was taken after the Georgian-Russian contacts in Moscow last week during the session of the CIS Coordinating Consultative Committee and the CIS summit.

He told Interfax on Wednesday that during the past few days Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaide and Defense Minister Varden Nadibaidze had talks with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

"They came to the conclusion that the return of the refugees, above all to the Gali Region, must begin in the middle of September," said Advadze.

Georgia believes that if the return of the refugees does not begin in the middle of September, the refugees' patience will come on end, because winter is coming.

Abkhaz Parliament Expresses 'Concern' Over Russians

LD1409212494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The Abkhaz parliament stressed that only voluntary and controlled return of refugees to Abkhazia can ensure their security. The Abkhaz parliament adopted a statement at its emergency session in Sukhumi today saying that the return of refugees must be organized in accordance with the procedure coordinated by all parties and must concern only the range of persons mentioned in the quadrilateral agreements on settlement in Abkhazia.

The Abkhaz parliament said that refugees can return home only after military actions are stopped and all Georgian troops are withdrawn from Abkhazia.

The Abkhaz parliament said it is seriously concerned over the actions of the Russian Peacekeeping Forces in the conflict zone on September 14. The Abkhaz parliament said it believes that uncontrolled crossing of the border by refugees had been organized under the guise of the military command exercise in the Galskiy Region of Abkhazia.

The Abkhaz parliament said that Georgian troops had not yet been completely withdrawn from the strategically important Kodori Gorge of Abkhazia.

The Abkhaz parliament said that the action taken on September 14 exceeds the limits of the quadrilateral

agreements, canalizes the situation in Abkhazia and could undermine the traditionally friendly attitude of its inhabitants to Russian servicemen and the confidence in Russia's peacekeeping efforts in Abkhazia.

The administration of the Galskiy Region told Interfax that there are several thousands refugees in the Georgian populated center of Rukhi near the Abkhaz border. Head of the Gali administration Ruslan Kishmariya said that one more company of the Russian Peacekeeping Forces is now deployed near the bridge across the Inguri River.

Minister Claims Involvement in Killings 'Absurd'

LD1409230994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By GIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 Sep—I take full responsibility for stating that not a single partisan grouping is operating in Abkhazia, and that there are no sabotage groups. A GIA-TASS correspondent was told this by Minister of State Givi Lominadze, chairman of the interim committee of the emergency situation zone in Western Georgia. Commenting on the deaths of two Russian officers from the peacekeeping force on 12 September in the village of Zemo Bargebi in Galskiy rayon, he said: "The Abkhazian separatists' attempt to accuse the Georgian side of these murders is absurd. Today it is not in the interests of a single Georgian—from the leaders of the republic to the refugees from Abkhazia—to complicate relations with the leadership of Russia and the Russian peacekeeping force."

Debate on Head of State Post Not on Agenda

LD1409223294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Opposition members in Tbilisi have again failed to put the question of abolishing the post of head of state on the house agenda. The motion for debate on government restructuring was rejected overwhelmingly by the session late on Tuesday.

Opposition members said the motion was caused by a lack of government management and loss of control of the situation. One opposition leader Nodar Natadze said the transfer of power to the cabinet was the best option while the post of the head of state must be abolished.

On Shevardnadze's proposal, the house preferred to focus on the crying issues of the country's social and economic development instead. Vice-Premier Teimuraz Basilia made a key report on the start of price liberalization and social security safeguards to more vulnerable groups.

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He spoke of a government resolution to raise gas rate from 2,600 to 200,000 coupons per cubic meter from September 7. Electricity rates and transport fares go up from 100 and 1,000 coupons to 60,000 and 50,000 coupons respectively.

The price of bread is to be increased from 700 to 200,000 coupons from September 15. But wages, pensions and student grants are to be indexed.

This month's minimal pay is to be raised to 2.5 million coupons (\$1 equals 4 million coupons) from 56,000 coupons (3.3 U.S. cents) now.

IF Note: In an opening speech to the session, Shevardnadze pointed to some positive trends in the economy including a slowdown in the rate of falling output. He said that 15 to 20 radical economic laws must be adopted to help towards economic recovery and subsequent growth.

Premier Patsatsia on Talks With Russia's Shokhin

LD0909203694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia had a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin. The Georgian party at the meeting included Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Kervalishvili, Finance Minister Davit Iakobidze, Ioseb Bachiasvili, chairman of the Foreign Economic Relations Committee, Valerian Advadze, Georgia's ambassador in Moscow, and Nugzar Pipia, head of state's envoy in Russia on economic and financial issues.

Mr. Otar Patsatsia emphasized the acute problems related to the return of refugees to Abkhazia and said that the problems could be solved providing Russia, as a mediator, stirred up its activities and had its guarantees materialized. This issue, very sensitive for Georgia, has been rather delayed and all parties involved in the process should strive for its prompt and efficient settlement. He also said that building materials acquired through the 3 billion ruble credit and earmarked for building and repairing refugees' houses had to be transported to their destination as soon as possible.

Mr. Aleksandr Shokhin agreed to Mr. Otar Patsatsia's suggestions and promised to spare no efforts to ease the pains of the Georgian people and strengthen their confidence in Russia.

They also discussed the issue of a 4 billion ruble credit. Ten billion rubles have already been allotted and Georgia has already begun to use those.

The issue of Abkhazia's posing obstacles to the full operation of the Inguri power station was also discussed.

Russian Interference in Latvian-Georgian Relations

LD1409223694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1617 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[Text] The inter-state relations between Georgia and Latvia are at the stage of formation, Interfax was told on Wednesday by director of the Georgian Foreign Ministry's political department Konstantin Zhgenti. Though the diplomatic relations are not yet established, said Zhgenti, we maintain close contacts at the level of foreign ministries. The diplomat expressed surprise concerning allegations by some deputies of the Latvian parliament that Latvia refrains from establishing official relations with Georgia due to the latter's yielding to Russia's pressure. The arguments are inconsistent because, said the source, embassies of the two states will open soon in Riga and Tbilisi. Besides, we did not receive through Latvian official channels any documents on the score [as received], the source said.

According to Zhgenti, the relationships between Georgia and Russia are developing successfully and are aimed at further closeness. And the fact that we are establishing diplomatic relations with Latvia means that this fact does not affect the relationships between Latvia and Georgia, he said.

New Minister Views Agro-Industrial Development

AU1209111794 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 1

[Interview with Zurab Gegechkori, minister of agriculture and the food industry, by Konstantin Tsagareishvili; place and date not given: "The Agro-Industrial Complex Should Not Be a Dependent But the Basis of the Prosperity of the State and its Citizens"]

[Text] SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA dossier: Zurab Gegechkori was born in 1941. He graduated from the Georgian Agricultural Institute as an agricultural and economic specialist. He worked as an economist on a collective farm in the village of Shemokmedi in Ozurgetskiy rayon and then as the head of the production and planning department in the Anaseulskiy tea and subtropical crops scientific-research institute. For a long time, he held various senior posts in the republic's planning, economic, and party structures. He was first deputy minister of agriculture and the food industry. Prior to his appointment as the republic's minister of agriculture and the food industry, he was chairman of the Georgian Committee for Land Resources and Cadastre.

[Tsagareishvili] Batono [Georgian polite form of address] Zurab, the republic is currently experiencing a severe economic crisis. The yield of its agro-industrial

complex has been reduced to a minimum. Can you see light at the end of the tunnel?

[Gegechkori] It is essential for us to emerge into the light and as soon as possible. We have to start with the agro-industrial complex and, first and foremost, aim to make it completely independent in its work. It is precisely the agro-industrial complex that can and should provide the state budget with revenues.

[Tsagareishvili] The question is how can this be achieved?

[Gegechkori] It is essential to implement radical changes both in the agro-industrial complex itself and the ministry that is responsible for the state of affairs in the agro-industrial complex. We should embark upon the path of creating farms and promoting the formation and strengthening of the private sector but, at the same time, not split up plots of land; in the process of destatization, we should use such forms of private ownership that can ensure the vital activity of farms and enterprises and branches. In particular, this is possible through shareholding.

[Tsagareishvili] Nevertheless, what way can you see of providing branches of the republic's agro-industrial complex with raw materials, energy resources, and other materials?

[Gegechkori] By developing in every way the contract system between producers and processors both within and outside the republic. We should set about creating reliable ties between partners; long-term, well thought out, and mutually advantageous contracts both at the level of rayons and farms and enterprises and at the level of the former Soviet republics with whom Georgia traditionally has had solid ties can contribute to this.

Why, for example, should we look for sugar throughout the world when it is possible to conclude a long-term and mutually advantageous contract with one or several farms in Ukraine and ensure the delivery of this food-stuff.

Naturally, the contract system can be developed on a reliable legal basis. Proceeding from this, it is necessary to step up the law-making activities of Parliament and the government. Moreover, the ministry should work on the necessary legal acts, vegetable oil, tobacco.... Here, we should adhere to the principle of the development and merger of branches.

One other way is the creation in the agro-industrial complex of joint enterprises with foreign firms.

[Tsagareishvili] How do you view the possibility of increasing foreign investments in our agriculture and processing and food industry in the near future?

[Gegechkori] The business circles of many countries are now showing increased interest in Georgia and its agro-industrial complex. They are properly assessing its potential and are ready to invest considerable capital here. Many firms intend to introduce the latest technology here. At the same time, they are happy making even a limited profit. Nevertheless, foreign investors naturally must have certain financial guarantees and a stable sociopolitical situation in the republic, which can be achieved only by the unity of the nation.

Friendship, Cooperation Treaty With Ukraine Ratified

AU1509113594 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 8 Sep 94 p 1

[GIA report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "Treaty Ratified"]

[Text] On 7 September, a protocol was signed in the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs confirming the ratification of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the Republic of Georgia and Ukraine signed on 13 April 1993.

The protocol was signed on behalf of the Ukrainian side by Anatoliy Kasyanenko, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine in Georgia, and on behalf of the Georgian side by A. Chikvaдзе, Republic of Georgia minister of foreign affairs.

Tbilisi Reports Rift in S. Ossetian Leadership

LD1409235094 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1749 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] It has become known through reliable sources that there is a disagreement in the leadership of the so-called South Ossetia. The disagreement has been caused by the confrontation between parliament and power-wielding structures. The main cause of this is the parliament's intention to hold talks with the Georgian side, which the armed formations oppose, putting forward demands to join North Ossetia. Owing to this, the chairman of the Council of Ministers and other leaders of South Ossetia have resigned.

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